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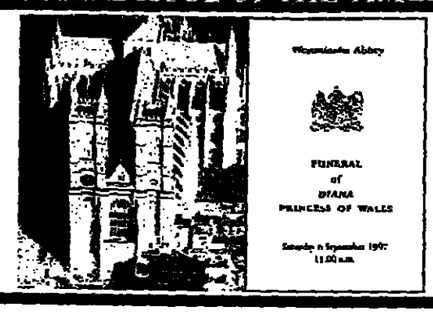
DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES - A SPECIAL MEMORIAL ISSUE OF THE TIMES



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THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

COMPLETE ORDER OF ABBEY SERVICE PLUS: WHERE TO WATCH THE FUNERAL

Princes lead nation's grief



SIMON SCHLUTER

The Prince of Wales with his sons, Prince Harry and Prince William, looking at the flowers outside Kensington Palace after their return from Balmoral

Queen pays tribute to 'exceptional and gifted human being'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, DANIEL MCGRORY AND ALAN HAMILTON

THE QUEEN last night paid a warm and personal tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, as an "exceptional and gifted human being" who had made many, many people happy.

Shortly after returning to London from Balmoral, she broadcast live to the nation "as your Queen and as a grandmother" to share the people's sadness at the death of her daughter-in-law.

Speaking "from the heart" she said: "I want to pay tribute to Diana myself. She was an exceptional and gifted human being. In good times and bad, she never lost her capacity to smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with her warmth and kindness.

"I admired and respected her — for her energy and commitment to others, and especially for her devotion to her two boys.

"This week at Balmoral, we have all been trying to help William and Harry come to terms with the devastating loss that they and the rest of us have suffered.

"No one who knew Diana will ever forget her. Millions of others who never met her, but felt they knew her, will remember her."

In a clear reference to the criticisms of the Royal Family's response to the Princess's death, she added that lessons should be learnt both from her life and from the "extraordinary and moving reaction to her death" and she promised: "I share in your determination to cherish her memory.

"This is also an opportunity for me, on behalf of my family, and especially Prince Charles and William and Harry, to thank all of you who have brought flowers, sent messages, and paid your respects in so many ways to a remarkable person. These acts of kindness have been a huge source of help and comfort."

Today's funeral, the Queen concluded, was an opportunity for everyone to join in expressing grief and gratitude for Diana's "all-too-short" life. "It is a chance to show to the whole world the British nation united in grief and respect. May those who died rest in peace and may we, each and every one of us, thank God for someone who made many, many people happy."

The Queen had earlier clearly been astonished when she confronted the masses of flowers outside Buckingham Palace as she returned from Balmoral with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Prince William, Prince Harry and the Prince of Wales, too, were obviously overcome when they saw the sea of colour in front of the iron gates of Kensington Palace, their family home until 1992.

The Royal Family's arrival in the capital was greeted with palpable relief by the massive crowds who had felt that it had been too aloof since the death of the Princess on Sunday. And the scenes at the palaces were the strongest possible vindication of the Queen's decision — even at a late stage — to change her plans, relax protocol and allow her family to make a more open display of their grief. It was what many had waited for all week.

The Queen also let it be known that she does not want the extraordinary floral display of public affection to be moved before next week. An estimated million bouquets have been laid at Buckingham, Kensington and St James's Palaces and a spokesman said: "Careful consideration is being given as to how best to preserve this tremendous expression of sympathy. All the flowers at all the palaces will certainly remain in place over the weekend and beyond."

The three Princes arrived at Kensington Palace from Balmoral at lunchtime to find a crowd of 10,000 waiting to grasp their hands and express sympathy and sorrow. The boys were tearful but composed and managed grateful smiles as they spoke to people in the queues.

The Prince of Wales gulped several times before he was able to talk to his sons as they stood together, drawing their attention to various parts of the display. Within moments, people were holding out flowers across the barriers and the sad little family group soon found themselves carrying bouquet after bouquet from the crowd to add to the mountain. One woman told the Princes: "Be strong, your Mum is in a good place", as a wave of public affection welled up for the boys. "God bless you", "We are so sorry", people called out. Many were openly crying.

The Queen had arrived in London on a separate flight with the Duke, her mother and Princess Margaret, 45 minutes after the Princes.

As the Queen and Duke arrived at the gold and black gates of the Palace, they got out of the car to look at the bouquets, flags, photographs and tributes to the Princess draped along the entire frontage.

The Queen shook her head and turned to her husband, pointing to the carpet of cellophane-wrapped flowers. Beside her a poignant symbol to the public disquiet at the Royal Family's behaviour until yesterday was a Union Flag at half-mast. Slowly the Queen walked along the lines of flowers occasionally leaning down to read a message or to look at a child's toy or photograph.

For several moments the royal couple stood together, their heads bowed, lost in thought at the many thousands of handwritten tributes, many of which were critical of them.

Once the crowd realised that she was stopping to look at the flowers. She turned for a second, smiled, and then gazed back down at the endless succession of simple tributes.

Turning from the flowers, she saw 11-year-old Kathryn Jones holding a spray of five red roses. The Queen took them and said: "Would you like me to place them for you?"

The girl replied: "No, Your Majesty. These are for you" and thrust them into her hands.

Looking shocked and moved at this simple expression and support, the Queen said: "Are you sure these are meant for me?" Behind her, the Duke of Edinburgh bit his lip.

Afterwards Kathryn said: "I had originally intended these flowers for Diana because she was such a wonderful person, but when I saw the Queen and how sad she looked, I felt sorry for her after all the things that had been said.

"I don't think she did anything wrong. She is a grandmother to William and Harry and they needed her more than we did."

There were similar scenes at St James's Palace a few minutes later when the Queen and Duke arrived to view the coffin laying in front of the altar in the Chapel Royal as her elder son and grandsons had done a few minutes before. There can have been few more difficult moments of the Queen's 45 years on the throne, with the outstanding exception of her own father's funeral in 1952.

The Queen and Duke then moved to the Long Corridor to see the books of condolence — which people were still prepared to queue for 11 hours to sign yesterday — and at 3.30 they emerged from the Friary Court entrance to be greeted by a spontaneous and prolonged burst of applause. The Queen's visage seemed momentarily to lighten.

She walked to the right hand side of Marlborough Road and began to talk with many members of the waiting queue, exchanging private words of greeting and grief.

Back at Buckingham Palace, the Royal Standard flew at the masthead of a pole that had been controversially empty all week. At one point it appeared to be flying at half-mast but, in fact, it had slipped and was soon raised again. Today it will be removed when the Queen leaves for the funeral and replaced with a Union Flag which will fly at half-mast until midnight.

Andrew Motion interview, page 4

MYTHOLOGY

Earth's axle creaks; the year jolts on;
the trees begin to slip their brittle leaves,
their flakes of rust;
and darkness takes the edge of daylight,
not because it wants to - never that.
Because it must.

And you? Your life was not your own to keep
or lose. Beside the river, swerving under ground,
your future tracked you, snapping at your heels:
Diana, breathless, hunted by your own quick hounds.

ANDREW MOTION

INSIDE

Cardinal Hume



"You are now on your way to a happiness the world cannot give"

Richard Attenborough



"She wanted above all to help those who had no voice and were helpless"

Simon Jenkins



"Great Brington church should become her proper memorial"

Anthony Howard



"Dynasties are about destinies — and in royal ones there is no escape"

WEATHER 24
CROSSWORD 24
COURT & SOCIAL 22
LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
SIMON JENKINS 20
BUSINESS 29-32, 40
MONEY 33-39
SPORT 41-48

WEEKEND

GARDENING 6, 7
PROPERTY 8, 11
TRAVEL 18-25

ON OTHER PAGES

Crowd control 2
Mass bivouac 3
Andrew Motion profile 4
A village's grief 5
Last resting place 6
Richard Attenborough 7
Final interview 8
America's Princess 9
Valerie Grove 10
Guide to the funeral 11-14
Week of mourning 15-19
Columnists 20
Leading article 21
Letters 21
Revised TV guide 41

Al Fayed says he has been told the Princess's last words

BY RICHARD FORD

THE last words and requests of Diana, Princess of Wales, were conveyed to Mohamed Al Fayed and have been passed on to "the appropriate person", it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Al Fayed was approached by someone who had helped the Princess during her final hours, and knew her final words, his spokesman Michael Cole said.

Mr Cole also confirmed that Dodi Fayed had given the Princess a ring on the night they died and said that Mr Al Fayed had asked the Spencer family if a silver plaque inscribed with a poem his son had written for the Princess could be placed in her coffin.

Mr Cole said: "Dodi wrote a poem for the Princess, and had it inscribed on a silver plaque. The plaque had been placed under her pillow at Dodi's apartment in Paris." Mr Cole did not know the words of the poem.

"The Princess also gave Dodi a pair of cufflinks. They were the last gift she had received from her late father. She said that she knew that it would give him joy to know they were in such safe and special hands."

Mr Cole said that what Dodi had meant when he gave the ring to Diana only hours before she died, would never be known: "If the planet lasts for another thousand years, people will still wonder about its significance."

The Princess is to be buried on an island in the centre of an ornamental lake, known as The Oval, in the grounds of Althorp Park, her brother Earl Spencer revealed yesterday. The Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev Ian Cundy, consecrated the ground on Thursday and a temporary bridge is being built over the lake. The burial ground will be open for a number of weeks each year for the public to pay their respects but the island will otherwise protect the Princess's final resting place and allow her sons to visit in privacy.

The funeral of Henri Paul, the couple's driver, was postponed after his family called for a second autopsy and a pathologist sent to Paris by Mr Al Fayed questioned whether the driver had been drunk. M Paul was due to have been buried this morning in his home town of Lorient, Brittany. The original autopsy, found that he had a blood alcohol level three times the legal limit.

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Police ask mourners to look out for each other

The Yard is preparing for a major operation, **Stewart Tendler** writes

THE millions of mourners flooding London's streets today are being urged by Scotland Yard to help each other and obey police orders.

Yesterday as the Yard put the finishing touches to orders for the 16,000 officers who will police the operation, Chief Superintendent Brian Paddick, second-in-command in the Yard's biggest public order opperation for decades, said thousands of special constables and traffic wardens would also be on duty.

The Government is hiring 2,500 guards from private security companies to act as stewards at public buildings, the sites of television cameras and public facilities. The stewards are being drawn from Wembley stadium and companies with experience in dealing with large public events.

Tom Laidlaw, the former head of the Yard's ceremonial operations, will supervise communications between the stewards and the Yard.

Mr Paddick called on the mourners to do what they were told by police. "We are asking everyone to cooperate with police and with each other." He is said he believed the police could cope with a crowd which may reach six million. Contingency plans are in hand for any emergencies.

Mr Paddick said police officers along the route would face into the crowds to watch for any signs of crushes or disturbances. Asked how the officers themselves will feel he said: "The officers are there to do a job. We are expected to be professional but we are human."

He said police would console their colleagues as well as any mourners in the crowd who were overcome.

The police are advising all members of the public to bring warm clothing, food and drink and to be prepared to be caught in crowds for many hours.

Earlier this week Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, called on parents to think very carefully about bringing small children to the funeral.

Mr Paddick will be the "silver" commander operating from a sophisticated mobile control unit. He will be directed by Commander Mike Messenger in the Yard's special operations room, codenamed GT. The two men performed the same roles during the Notting Hill carnival last month.

They will be responsible for up to 8,000 uniformed officers who will line the route of the cortege and the hearse.

CID officers will mingle with the crowd and details of a group of "royal watchers" who have fixations about members of the Royal Family and who could cause disturbances are being given to officers.

The Security Service and Special Branch intelligence officers have not identified any threats to the funeral from terrorists or extremist political groups but no possibilities are being ruled out. Yesterday police and local council and utility workers finished inspections of sewers, basements, telephone boxes and post boxes on the main route to prevent the risk of bombs.

A security cordon is being created around Westminster Abbey and streets are due to be closed along the route from dawn. Sharpshooters trained by the Yard's PT19 firearms unit will take up positions overnight on key buildings and nine Special Branch teams will start close protection for a group of VIPs.

Hillary Clinton, wife of the American President, is not arriving until this morning and will fly out again later today. All the other VIPS including Bernadette Chirac, wife of the French President, Queen Noor of Jordan and Suzanne Mubarak, wife of the Egyptian president, will be in London by this morning.



Mrs Mubarak: arriving in London this morning

MIKE WILKINSON



The Queen and Princess Margaret are driven from Balmoral on the way to Aberdeen airport at the start of their journey to London

Guards ready to shoulder a heavy burden of honour

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE guardsmen from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards who will carry the coffin into Westminster Abbey have been given orders to eat a big breakfast this morning to be prepared for the physical ordeal. The royal coffin is lead-lined and weighs 40 stone.

Under a Welsh Guard tradition going back 150 years, the guardsmen from The Prince of Wales's Company will prepare themselves for the honour of forming the bearer party with a wake-up call at 6.30am, a session of physical training and a full breakfast.

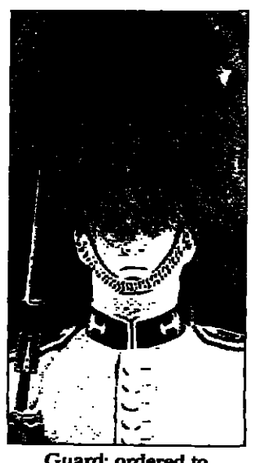
Major Crispin Black, second-in-command of the battalion, said: "The PT is always done before big parades to loosen the limbs, and before going on ceremonial duties of this nature everyone must have a big breakfast. It's unlikely that anyone will have the appetite for the legendary full Army breakfast although it will be available, but they must eat something to sustain themselves through a long parade".

He said this had been the standing orders for the Brigade of Guards for nearly 150 years. Most of Thursday and yesterday was spent rehearsing the techniques and drills required of a bearer party at Wellington Barracks, using a practice coffin of about the same size and weight, and out of sight of the public. The preparations included grooming the bearskins, polishing boots "to the high sheen so characteristic of guardsmen" and cleaning the scarlet tunics. Eight guardsmen from the Prince of Wales's Company will act as the pallbearers. Two extra guardsmen will be the cap bearers, in charge of taking the bearskins when the pallbearers remove them to go into the Abbey. The Guards fly back to Northern Ireland after the ceremony for the final days of a six-month tour.

The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery were also busy yesterday making final preparations for the gun-carriage duty which is to be their responsibility. Major Keith Brooks, the commanding officer, made sure that his men were fully ready for their task of drawing the gun carriage, bearing the coffin, along the route from Kensington Palace to the Abbey. In a private briefing before ordering the men to relax for the afternoon, he said that there was no one "on this planet" better able to peform the gun carriage duty.

The gun carriage will be drawn by three pairs of horses, with a mounted sergeant. Sergeant Damian Gascoyne from Derby, riding on the left of the leading pair of horses. The officer commanding the section, Captain Grant Chanter from Devon, will be at the rear of the gun carriage.

Six Falklands veterans have been given a special place of honour at the funeral service. The ex-servicemen, three of whom were seriously wounded, will represent the South Atlantic Medal Association, formed earlier this year to help veterans of the conflict. The delegation, wearing their Falklands and gallantry decorations, will be led by Rick Jolly, the former Royal Navy Surgeon Commander who was awarded the OBE for his life-saving efforts at the emergency field hospital in Ajax Bay during the war.



Guard: ordered to have big breakfast

Blair to discuss monarchy's role

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR will take an early opportunity on Sunday to discuss with the Queen the future of the monarchy in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

After a week in which he has played a substantial behind-the-scenes role in the preparations for the funeral, the Prime Minister is expected to tender his private advice on how the Royal Family should attempt to rebuild its image.

Although officials decline to brief about such meetings, the decision of the Queen to see Mr Blair at Balmoral so soon after the funeral is an indication of her desire to hear more of her Prime Minister's views after a week in which he has been praised for being in tune with the mood of the nation, in contrast to the Royal Family.

Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, would have been at Balmoral this weekend for the annual Balmoral talks with the Queen. Ironically, they had been due to discuss the future role of the Princess of Wales and the campaigns with which she had been associated, notably on landmines.

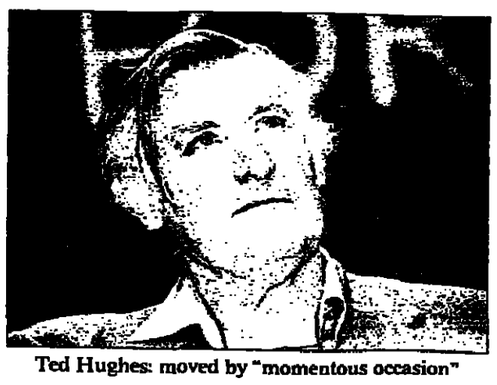
Now they will be discussing the Royal Family's approach to the future after a week when it has been criticised as never before for seeming too remote from the public mood.

Although it is known that the Prince of Wales persuaded the Queen to discard protocol and to make a more public display of the Royal Family's grief, it is also certain that he was advised by Mr Blair that the public was finding it hard to come to terms with its aloofness.

The decision to stage the eve-of-funeral broadcast came from Balmoral but it was welcomed eagerly by Downing Street. In their private discussions with Palace officials, Mr Blair's staff gave a warning of the unsettled public mood over the absence of a flag at Buckingham Palace.

The Prime Minister could be expected to tell the Queen gently that there are lessons for the Royal Family in the increased warmth of the public towards them once protocol had been dispensed with and the arrangements changed.

Laureate's memorial in verse



Ted Hughes: moved by "momentous occasion"

TED HUGHES, the Poet Laureate, has written a poem to commemorate the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Mr Hughes, the Poet Laureate since 1984, usually only writes a piece to celebrate a national event, such as a royal birthday. The poem has been released to the media in return for donations to the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

Joanna Mackle, publishing director of Faber and Faber said: "Ted felt that it was such a momentous and sad occasion that it should be as widely available as possible so that the public could read it. This was all his idea. I don't know where he wrote it, or when he made his decision to do so. He is always rather mysterious. The poems just turn up"

6th September 1997

Mankind is many rivers
That only want to run.
Holy Tragedy and Loss
Make the many One.
Mankind is a Holy, crowned
Mother and her Son.
For worship, for mourning:
God is here, is gone.
Love is broken on the Cross
The Flower on the Gun.

Ted Hughes

Queen 'has been hurt by unfair attacks'

BY MICHAEL EVANS

LORD BRAMALL, Lord-Lieutenant of London, spoke in support of the Queen and the Royal Family on Friday after criticism among the public and the press over their perceived muted response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and their strict observance of protocol.

Lord Bramall, former Chief of the Defence Staff, said he was not clear what the public wanted of the Queen.

No one was closer nor more deeply involved in the grief over the loss of the Princess than the Queen and Royal Family, and in particular Prince William and Prince Harry.

"I really don't believe that because so many of us touchingly and genuinely have reacted so dramatically and emotionally (to Diana's death) that we have any right to criticise those who have decided to grieve in private, especially when they are nearer to the grief and trauma than any of us," he said on the BBC *Today* programme.

Lord Bramall, who in his official capacity as Lord-Lieutenant of London was at RAF Northolt when the body of the Princess was flown in from Paris earlier this week, said he felt moved to speak out for the Queen because of the "unfair" criticism.

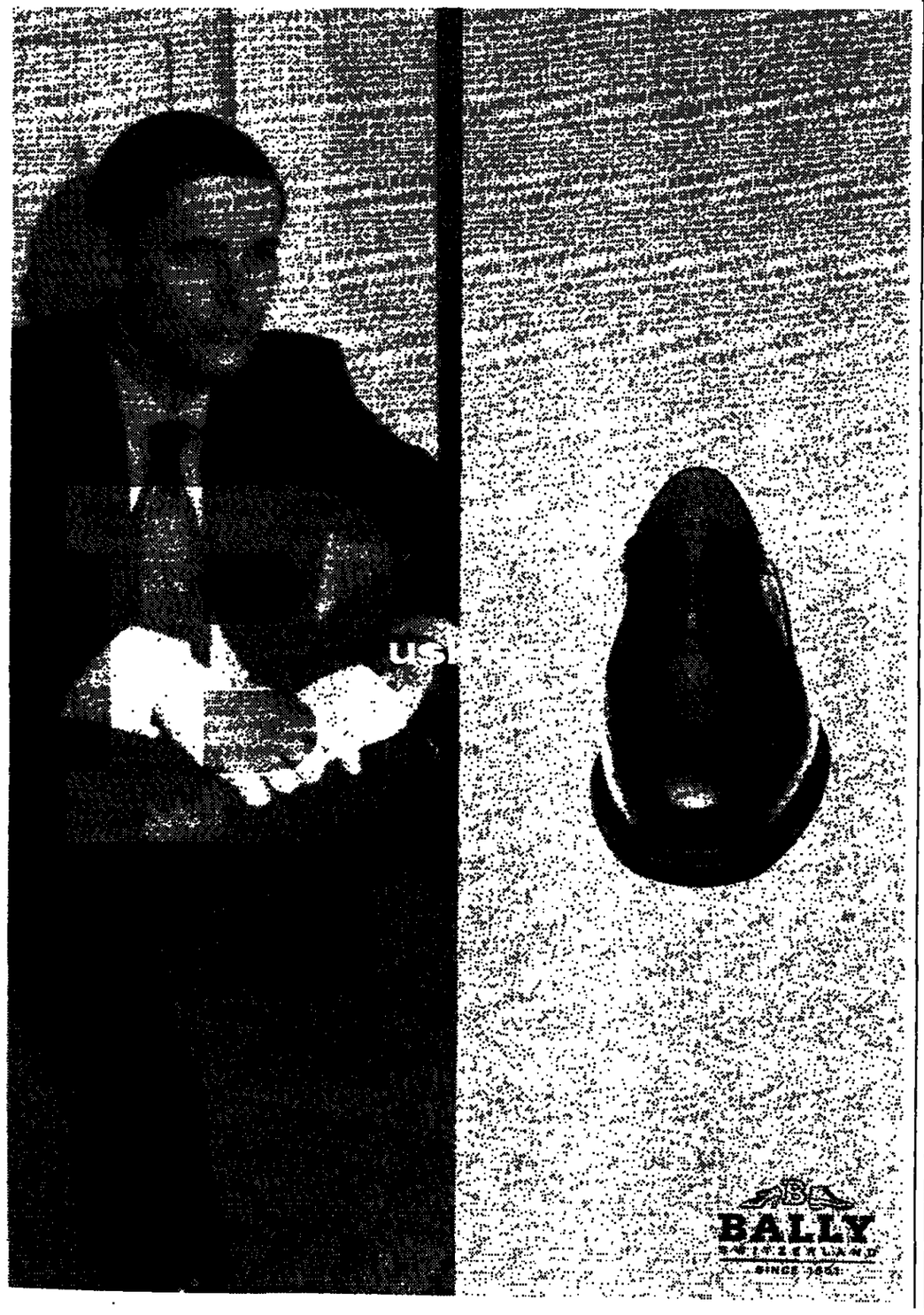
The Queen, he said, had "taken account" of public feeling by announcing that she would give a television broadcast and by allowing the Union Jack to fly at half mast over Buckingham Palace. But the fact that no flag had been flying until now was entirely in keeping with the tradition in which the Royal Standard flew only when the monarch was in residence. "In no sense was this disrespectful to the Princess of Wales," he said.

The Queen and Royal Family had done what other families would do, which was to grieve in private. The Queen's primary responsibility had been to give love and support to the two young princes "in the comparative peace of Balmoral".

The Queen would have been "hurt", he said, by the criticism that had been "somewhat fanned" over the last few days. Speaking to *The Times*, he said the surge of emotion in the country had reminded him of VE Day and VJ Day.

When the British people showed such public emotion, "which is unusual", they appeared to expect the members of the Royal Family to react in exactly the same way. "It's as if those queueing to sign the books of condolence want the Queen to do the same and to stand with them for 10 hours," he said.

Lord Bramall will have no official role at the funeral, although he has been invited to the service. The Lord-Lieutenant does not have a constitutional function on such occasions.



DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Books of condolence to stay open

BY DANIEL MCGORY AND ADRIAN LEE

THEY came in their thousands last night in a final rush of emotion pouring along The Mall to sign the books of condolence for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Police watched helplessly while the queues stretched ever longer as the Palace prepared to shut the books at midnight to allow preparations for the funeral.

Buckingham Palace said that the one million floral bouquets left at the three Royal Palaces will stay in place throughout the weekend and beyond. Only after the Princess is buried will the Palace decide what to do with the bouquets and the messages. Their more immediate concern last night was what to do with the throng who had taken over The Mall and its approaches.

Families ignoring advice not to subject young children to a cold and lengthy wait clamoured to find the end of the queue of people that by last night was longer than at any time since the Princess's death.

At the end of the queue that was now beyond Admiralty Arch, the police kept a concerned eye trying to judge how long it will take to process the thousands still waiting. Those involved in arrangements along the funeral route found their efforts hampered by the crush of people milling in both directions.

The Palace tried in vain to reassure those wanting to sign the books that they would have every chance to leave their condolences.

The plan is to move the 43 books to Kensington Palace state apartments and open them to mourners at 2pm on Saturday. A Palace spokesman said: "They will stay open 24 hours a day until Monday, September 15, and longer if need be. We're having to keep this under constant review because there is such an obvious demand and we simply don't know what is going to happen this weekend."

PERSONAL TRIBUTES

The Palace says it has not decided what to do with the many thousands of written messages. "That will be for Prince Charles, the Royal Family, Earl Spencer and the rest of his family to decide where these books finally go," the spokesman said.

It is also undecided if the public will ever have a chance to read the expressions of condolence. "As many were intended as a personal farewell message then every consideration has to be given how best to deal with this sensitively to respect the public's wishes and the family's wishes," the spokesman added.

The spokesman said that the tributes outside the royal palaces will remain all weekend and beyond. "Careful consideration is being given as to how best to preserve this tremendous expression of sympathy. Ultimately of course the flowers and the many messages of condolence will have to be collected.

"Of particular concern is to ensure that the messages are gathered safely before the possibility of severe damage by the weather and they will be offered to the families. It's only appropriate that the flowers and the messages must be gathered by hand." One suggestion is that the flowers will be offered to hospitals, children's homes, retirement homes and hospices.

The Palace authorities said that none of the hand-written messages would be destroyed. Some are critical of the Queen and the Royal family but they, too, will be given to the Palace and the Spencer family. The authorities say it is too soon to say if there will be a permanent exhibition of the tributes and messages.

At 1.20pm the queue to sign the book of condolence at St James's Palace was closed off by Buckingham Palace officials and the police. The last person allowed through was Randle Williams, 37, of Newbury, Berkshire, who was allowed to join the end after explaining that his wife had suffered from an eating disorder and had drawn inspiration from the Princess. Mr Williams and his wife travelled to London on Thursday night but had to return home when she was taken ill after queueing for 6½ hours. He said that he would sign on behalf of his wife. "When I got to the end of the queue it was just closing. When I explained why I had to get in the policeman was very good. People behind me were disappointed but I think they understood."

PC Don Gatford, whose duty it was to turn people away, said: "People were obviously disappointed but took it in the spirit it was meant."

Campers joke today, knowing sadness is to come

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ROYAL PARKS

AS the multitudes pitched their tents, unrolled their sleeping bags and lit their Primus stoves, people joked that this was the biggest mass bivouac in peacetime history.

Many thousands of the millions expected to attend the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, decided to spend last night camped in the Royal Parks and on the capital's streets to ensure a good view of the solemn procession.

Perhaps one of the more surprising aspects of this sleep-out was the number of jokes. Groups kept their spirits up through the long hours of waiting with gentle humour.

"You have to have a sense of humour now, because the real sadness is still to come," said Corinne Gardner, as she prepared for her second night in The Mall.

This great boulevard teemed with people from breakfast time onwards on Friday. A steady stream made their way from Admiralty Arch to join the queue to sign condolence books at St James's Palace, or to see the flowers at Buckingham Palace. Then many returned to pick their spot and bed down behind the crush barriers.

By 9am Friday, , the prime positions, opposite Westminster Abbey, had long gone. So I took my deckchair and sleeping bag to The Mall, where I joined a group already rubbing their eyes after sleeping out on Thursday.

Miss Gardner — who works for a children's charity, Tree of Hope, and had brought her foster daughter (and the current Miss Bexhill-on-Sea), Lesley Barker, 15 — fixed the TV crews who came to film our camp with a steely stare. "Are you going to pay us for this?," she asked, and breaking into laughter when they look worried that she was serious.

"Now I know what monkeys in the zoo feel like," said Truda Howell, 77, from beneath her woolly hat. She had been joined by her daughter, Margaret, 54, and a friend, Vicky Ibberston, 59, from Barry, South Wales. They had dragged a park bench up and made themselves quite cosy.

A dispute broke out between Dominic Weldon, 10, and his father, Richard, over who had been the source of loud snoring emanating from their tent during the night.

Passers-by stopped to join in the banter, and those who regretted that they would not be able to sleep out dispensed sandwiches and drinks. One lady gave us a flower arrangement. Tea was boiled up. Policemen, both on foot and horseback, stopped for a chat. Evangelists dispensed leaflets.

"When the Jehovah's Witnesses have come, we'll have had everyone," said Mr Weldon Sr.

As we settled down for the long night ahead, there was plenty of time for serious reflection. Emily Toms, 30, who had come from Bristol with her mother, Victoria Wilson, and her son, Jake, 10, said the three generations of her family had a personal reason for wanting to be present.

"We came for the obvious reasons, but also my grandmother, who is in her eighties and sadly couldn't be here, and my grandfather met for the first time at a dance at Althorp. So the Spencer family has always been dear to us," she said.

Mr Weldon said he wanted his son to see an important moment in history. "I brought my daughter to see the wedding when she was only six, and now I want my son to feel in later years that he was in some way part of this, even if he doesn't grasp the significance fully now.

"Our knowledge of Princess Diana has grown enormously since the wedding and, in her death, we have seen the significance of her life. I think it's important in some sense and celebrate her life."

☐ Rail staff have been working round the clock to provide enough trains to cope with the demand from mourners heading to London.

Maintenance engineers on several of Britain's main lines worked through the night this week to ensure rolling stock is repaired in time for the influx into London.

Thousands of visitors began arriving at London's main termini on Friday, many ready to camp in the Royal parks to ensure a good vantage point on the funeral route.

JOHN PARKIN/AP



The scene outside Westminster Abbey where many mourners, including some in wheelchairs, where preparing to bed down for a third consecutive night

Young and old huddle to say their final farewell

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE VIGIL

BY NOON yesterday, the sea of sleeping bags in front of Westminster Abbey was ten deep as young and old huddled together in the wait to say a final farewell to Diana, the Princess of Wales.

Many, including a number in wheelchairs, were preparing to bed down on concrete for their third consecutive night. Among the hundreds were scores of children, many only months old, and brought by parents in defiance of pleas by police urging youngsters to be left at home.

Janice Hall, who had travelled from Washington in Tyne and Wear with her family, including Kendall, her daughter, aged 9, said she had wanted her daughter to witness a moment in history. "We would have waited all week if we had to. Kendall wanted to be here and I did not want her to miss something so special. We all felt it was important to pay our respects."

Amy Lee and Naria Prentice, both 16, and Alison Warner, 13, had arrived separately, but made friends as they pinned their bouquets and pictures of the Princess to the railings in front of their sleeping bags to form a makeshift shrine.

"She broke down all kinds of barriers," Miss Lee said. "She had so much love for the people that we wanted to give something back."

"The amazing thing about the last few days is the way it's brought so many people together, rich and poor, young and old," Miss Prentice said.

In the Abbey, scores of workers had toiled through the night on Thursday making final preparations for the funeral. Outside, the streets were filled with passers-by and motorists making spontaneous gifts of water, bread and fruit to the waiting crowd. "There have been lorry drivers who have stopped by dropping off crates of apples and oranges and we even had someone giving out umbrellas in case it rained," said Deborah Reynolds, who travelled from Glasgow on Thursday with twin sons, Nathaniel and Joshua, aged 6. "The way everyone has come together is the best tribute we could pay her."

Daniel Eccles, a 46-year-old Lancashire man whose multiple sclerosis confines him to a wheelchair, had met the Princess on a charity visit and said his two-day-long wait so far was a way of showing his regard for the kindness she had shown him.

Catering for huge crowds continues around clock

BY LIN JENKINS

HYDE PARK

AN ARMY of engineers and carpenters worked through the night in Hyde Park to be ready for the crowds. The giant screens, on which mourners can watch television coverage of the procession and ceremony, were expected to be ready shortly after dawn.

Work was also continuing on the sound system, with speakers along much of the route and miles of cabling supported by London's trees. Carpenters were putting finishing touches to the staging, where cameramen will record the procession. More than 1,500 portable lavatory blocks were moved into the capital.

Hyde Park, which normally closes between midnight and 5am, remained open for the workmen and to allow members of the public to stay in the park. Caterers, who had driven through the night after being contacted by organisers late on Thursday, opened at 6pm on Friday and remained open all night.

Catering facilities will close during the funeral and then reopen until 6pm. All are donating at least 20 per cent of their takings to the charitable foundation set up in the Princess's memory.

Richard Llewellyn, who drove from Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, with his fish and chip bar, had only been asked to come at 6pm on Thursday. "People have come from a long way away. We are from Wales and she is, of course, our princess," he said.

"People have to be catered for and I am sure they will understand why we are working. We will have signs up explaining about the donations which will make it clear we are not profiteering from this tragic event."

Police said that crowd estimates were anything up to five million and that a decision on whether to employ more than the planned 3,500 police officers and 70 mounted officers would be made overnight. Leave for the Metropolitan Police had been cancelled.

Mourners begin pilgrimage to remember Princess who retained the common touch

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE REGIONS

THEY started early in the morning, climbing on board coaches and minibuses in distant regions, clutching overnight bags containing warm clothing for a chilly night ahead.

Some carried bouquets of flowers bearing poignant, personal messages of sympathy. Few were thinking of their own comfort as they joined the flow of mourners heading south along the motorways to the capital.

All felt drawn to express their private grief in public. Many had signed the books of condolence laid out in cathedrals, town halls and department stores in their home cities, but it was not enough.

Mourners gathered early in Chorlton Street bus station in Manchester for the breakfast-time National Express coaches to London so that they would be able to establish a position as close to Westminster Abbey as possible. Shelly Evans, 46, a hairdresser, from Hulme, in Manchester, had put on a smart suit for the journey. Inside her overnight bag was a kagoule, some woollies and a pair of practical shoes. "They are my hob-nail boots," she said.

She said she lost her husband to a heart attack on New Year's Day. She knew what it was like to lose someone. "I have nobody," she said. "I just wanted to say goodbye. I am sad, very sad.

"I camped out for Princess Diana when she got married but I felt it was just as important to be there for her on this occasion. I have been to Manchester Cathedral to sign the book but it is not the same. I just had to be there on the day."

She intends to place the flowers as close to the abbey as possible before establishing her spot. The mixed bouquet carries a card signed by everyone in her salon, reading: "To Diana whom God sent to show us how to be true human beings. May you have peace always."

Thomas Gerrard, 25, an insurance salesman, from south Manchester, tried to compose some of his thoughts as he queued for the 9.15am coach to London, a four-hour journey away.

Diana, Princess of Wales, he wrote, was a beautiful, kind princess who married her Prince Charming. For a while, at least, the fairy-tale held true.

"After her death the fairy-tale is now over," he wrote. "Diana, you were tragically taken from us but your memory and your work will live forever. There is a light for you that will never go out. Rest in peace."

Mr Gerrard, carrying a complete set of waterproofs and tins of food for the long, overnight vigil, said that Diana, Princess of Wales spoke to his generation. She had looks and position, yet retained a common touch.

"Her privileged background did not overwhelm her," he said. "She knew the most important thing was not the wealth she was born into but what you aspired to. She was hounded to death. She was worthy of so much more."

Stanley Lee, 74, a retired coach builder, from Blackley, north Manchester, felt drawn towards Westminster Abbey by the picture in his mind's eye of the princess as a carer of the sick, the lonely and confused.

"The abiding image I have of her is surrounded by young children, especially those suffering from cancer," he said.

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Elton John song tipped to raise millions for charity

ELTON JOHN'S rewritten version of *Candle In The Wind* is expected to become the biggest-selling single in history, raising millions of pounds for charity, when it is released later this month.

John, 50, has said that he will go to a studio and record a piano and vocal version of his 1974 hit beginning "Goodbye England's rose ... " after performing at Westminster Abbey.

Record industry insiders believe that the single will easily outstrip the 3.5 million sales notched up by Band Aid's *Do they Know It's Christmas*, the biggest seller so far which went to number one in December 1984. Some record industry experts believe demand will even ensure the record claims the coveted number one slot at Christmas.

Candle In the Wind will be released later this month and all profits will go to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Profits from all of his singles presently go to the Elton John Aids Foundation.

John said yesterday: "It is three verses about her and it's a beautiful lyric and fitting for her." Speaking on television in America he added: "I will go from Westminster Abbey to a studio where I will record a piano and voice version of the song. I'm going to put it on my new single and give all the money to start Di's charity foundation off."

Studio version expected to break Band Aid's 1984 record, writes Adam Fresco

A spokesman for *Music Week* magazine said: "Everyone will buy a copy. The sales will go through the stratosphere and it will be the biggest selling of all time."

A spokesman for HMV Records added: "The emotional power of the record is huge and I think it will dwarf the other singles this Christmas. People will see it as their way of relating to Princess Diana.

"It will even sell well in places like the US which do not have a single-buying culture. There is no exaggeration in saying that its potential sales run into millions and one can see it staying in the charts for 10-20 weeks."

John flew back from New York and the British soprano Lynne Dawson travelled back from Berlin yesterday to begin rehearsals for their tributes to the Princess. Almost as soon as they touched down, they were on their way to Westminster Abbey.

John's spokesman noted that as the pop star will be appearing solo he primarily needed only to carry out sound checks at the Abbey.

Dawson interrupted performances of *The Magic Flute* with Daniel Barenboim at the Staatsopera in Berlin to sing *Libera Me* from Verdi's *Requiem*. Her repertoire on the international opera circuit has ranged from Mozart to Wagner and she has particularly excelled with sacred music such as Mozart's *Requiem* and Bach's *B Minor Mass*.

She said yesterday: "It's obviously a very extraordinary occasion. I shall be happy if I can in some small way alleviate the sadness of the family. I would not have been able to sing had I known her personally. Funerals are very difficult occasions."

Last year, in an interview with *The Times* before appearing with Opera North, she expressed interest in working "more in my own country — if only I were offered the right role". Her appearance at Westminster was at the invitation of Martin Neary, the master of the choristers, with whom she has worked in the past.

The people of Scotland and Wales expressed sadness yesterday that the Princess will be described as "England's Rose" in John's specially rewritten funeral tribute.

Complaints were made by members of the public to national newspapers and Buckingham Palace as soon as the new lyrics were published on Thursday. Many callers said they were upset by the oversight and pointed out that Diana was the "People's Princess and not just England's".

Yesterday John's agent insisted that the newly-worked lyrics, rewritten in haste by Bernie Taupin from the original classic about Marilyn Monroe, were "a work in progress" and should not have been published by the Palace at such an early stage. The agent did not rule out the possiblity of changing the lyric.



Elton John with Barbara Walters, ABC anchorwoman, who interviewed him for the programme *20/20*

IN BRIEF

Television drops ads as mark of respect

ITV and Channel 4 are suspending advertising during coverage of the Princess's funeral, it was confirmed, because it is a time of national mourning and as a mark of respect to the Princess.

No advertisements will appear on ITV from 6am on Saturday until 4pm, or during later news programmes. Channel 4 will not broadcast any commercials until 5pm and will resume the suspension from 6.20pm to 8pm, during *Serenade to a Princess* and a news special. The companies will seek to extend advertising slots later in the year, to recoup lost income.

Television listings, page 12

Master of music

Martin Neary, Master of the Choristers and Organist of Westminster Abbey, will lead the music at the service. He sang as a chorister at the Queen's Coronation, sang regularly at St James's Palace and was a successful Master of the Music at Winchester Cathedral. In 1988 he moved to the Abbey, where critics have applauded the choir's work under his direction. He is president of the Royal College of Organists.

Baby tribute

A woman who went into labour a week early after learning of the death of the Princess of Wales has named her baby Diana as a tribute. Karen Whitney, 29, and her partner, Chris Crossman, 36, decided on the name the moment they saw the news on television. The shock brought on labour, and 18 hours after being taken to hospital in Ashington, Northumberland, Ellen Diana was born weighing 5lbs 5oz.

Friendship link

Among those attending the funeral will be a former maid who, after she was told she had cancer, became a friend of the Princess. Fay Appleby joined the Princess's staff in 1984 and soon became her personal dresser. Mrs Appleby, 42, said that when she learnt she had cancer of the mouth two weeks before her wedding in 1987, the Princess gave her the use of a chauffeur-driven car to go to hospital for radiotherapy sessions.

The Times abroad

Due to early printing of *The Times* yesterday, some overseas editions of the paper do not contain the Magazine. Those who find they have no Magazine should ring +44 990 100390.

CORRECTION

A photograph yesterday accompanying a report on Laura Stanford, who stood in for Diana, Princess of Wales at a charity fund-raising launch, was in fact that of Hollie Emerson, who will be the youngest person in today's funeral procession. We apologise for the error.

Thousands turn on their hotline to the emotions



The poet Andrew Motion, who is struck by the quality of poetic outpouring

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THIS week, in their thousands, people have been turning to verse.

One of Britain's leading poets, Andrew Motion, who has written a poem for *The Times* today, says he has been deeply moved by the number of people who have composed verses to leave with flowers for the Princess.

He was particularly struck by their quality, he said yesterday. "I've always believed that poetry is important in the lives of people at moments of crisis. When they fall in love, when people die. The weight of strong feeling can create these unusual utterances. Poetry does have a valuable role. It is a hotline to the emotions."

The Princess's death moved Motion, who is admired for his elegiac poetry, to put pen to paper. Yet, he said, it proved particularly hard. "Poetry ought to be able to summon up a public mood, as well as speaking for private moments. It was the burden of expectation, whether or not you can come anywhere near becoming part of the tidal wave of feeling."

He added: "I felt shocked and upset when I first heard about it. In the days subsequent to the news breaking, I wouldn't say my shock had been diluted, but elaborated by the extraordinary shock of seeing how the country had reacted. We have never seen anything like it before in our lifetime or will we again.

"The poem is deeply to do with individual feelings about her. She inspired passion and respect. She was a player on the world stage. There are not so many of them. We mourn the loss of that."

He suggested the it was almost fortunate that the Princess probably never realised the extent of the people's love for her. "No one could be expected to carry the weight of such expectation."

Motion — whose eighth volume of poetry was published this year to critical acclaim and whose biography of Keats is out next month — noted that despite a background that set the Princess apart, the tragedies in her life, her broken home and broken marriage, people felt able to "identify with her like mad".

In writing about her, he felt certain metaphors. "I wanted to write about it happening at a certain time of year, the end of summer and darkness coming in. I was very struck from the moment I first heard about it, by the idea of how the furies chased her. It's a chase, the furies, underground (in the tunnel) which has a mythic element to it. Then I start thinking about Diana and her hounds, Diana the Huntress."

He has written just eight lines, but he explained, the short poems are harder to write than longer ones.

"I wanted to write something lapidary, something written on a stone."

Sporting bodies are right to do nothing on a day of mourning

Sport's record of sensitivity is not good, but it rescued itself this week, says **Simon Barnes**

It always comes as a relief, not to say a surprise, when sport does the right thing. Sport's record for sensitivity to private and public feeling is not exactly one hundred percent: or if so, not in the right direction. The way sport treats its own is bad enough: hardly a football manager is sacked without first receiving a vote of confidence from his chairman, scarcely a player is dropped from the national team without his remaining ignorant of the matter until he reads the newspaper.

But one by one, some eagerly, some biting the earth and screaming, some by mere chance, the various sporting bodies have done what sport's enemies and most enthusiastic followers want — nothing. Saturday has always meant sport, but not today. Today, sport stops.

Theatrical people have a taste for vivid expressions. When a theatre closes down, they say that it is "dark" or has "gone dark." There is a touch of grimness in the expression, as being for part of its participants a grim trade. Sport conveys, as nothing else in national life could, what is happening. Today, sport has gone dark. Today, Britain itself has gone dark.

The Premiership football programme avoided its moral dilemma neatly enough, by being cancelled by long prior arrangement: there is an international match, England against Moldova next week, and all top flight football was postponed as part of preparation for this fixture. Most of the rest of football was swift to follow this inadvertent lead.

The exception was the Scottish Football Association: Scotland were due to play Belarus today, and were not of a mind to overcome the various logistical problems that would follow a cancellation. But they were forced to back down by the need, not to say the demands, of everyone with whom they came into contact, not least the players themselves.

Three Scottish players, Ally McCoist, Andy Goram, and Gordon Durie, had asked to be dropped if the game went ahead today. Eventually, the crushing weight of this massive public demand for darkness succeeded in shaking even sport's traditional bureaucratic intransigence. The match will take place tomorrow.

Perhaps the only greater force than sport than bureaucratic intransigence is the bookmakers' hunger for cash. Racing in this country was darkened almost eagerly, in this most royalty-conscious of sports. But that wasn't going to stop the bookmakers. The big companies, Ladbrokes, Hill's and Coral, said they would put together an adhoc programme of Irish racing and greyhound racing with which to snare the 50p-winpatents of a mourning nation.

But they too have been forced to buckle under. "We are respecting the tide of deep feeling that has affected the nation," said Roger Withers, managing director of Coral. In another words, they realised it was no go. The nation demanded that betting shops should go dark.



Jim Farry, chief executive of Scottish FA, was forced by public protests to back down over game

And where sport has led, just about every other form of innocent amusement that the nation is capable of getting up to in public on a Saturday morning, will go dark. Or perhaps it would have happened anyway. Pubs, cafes, shopping centres, individual shops: the country is awash with handwritten notices. Every door of every form of public bsiness has a note stuck to its door: "As a mark of respect ..."

Why? Because it is obvious that it should be so. Because it is important that it should be so. Because it is absolutely necessary that it should be so. But as the persistent child inquisitor will always ask one more time that you can easily answer: why?

Sport is innocent enough a pleasure. It is infinitely trivial, and at times of deep feeling, trivialities and superficialities give a kind of comfort. Sport is fun, sport is there to cheer you up. Sport is an essential part of the gaiety of the nation. At a time when, you would think, the nation needs nothing more greatly than cheering up, wants nothing more deeply than consolation, sport has vanished, sport is dark.

And it is what people want. More: it is what people *need*. They simply do not want consolation. They do not want to be distracted, cheered up, taken out of themselves. They want to mourn. People need to grieve.

Now I have long observed, from personal and from vicarious experience, that there are parallels between grief and falling in love. Falling in love is a kind of madness: a suspension of all everyday realities. It is not a permanent state: indeed, it is one of the heresies of 20th century life that being in love is not a permanent state, but one for which everyone has a permanent right.

But no. Being in love is an initial and relatively shortlived stage on the way to something more important and more profound: this being nothing less than love itself. But don't expect to establish the permanence of love without first passing through the temporary madness of being *in* love.

The same relationship can be found with grief and sadness. A bereavement, and most particularly a sudden and violent one, for which there can be no preparation, leaves one in a state in which nothing else can be considered. Nothing else matters.

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Village senses loss of 'one of its own'



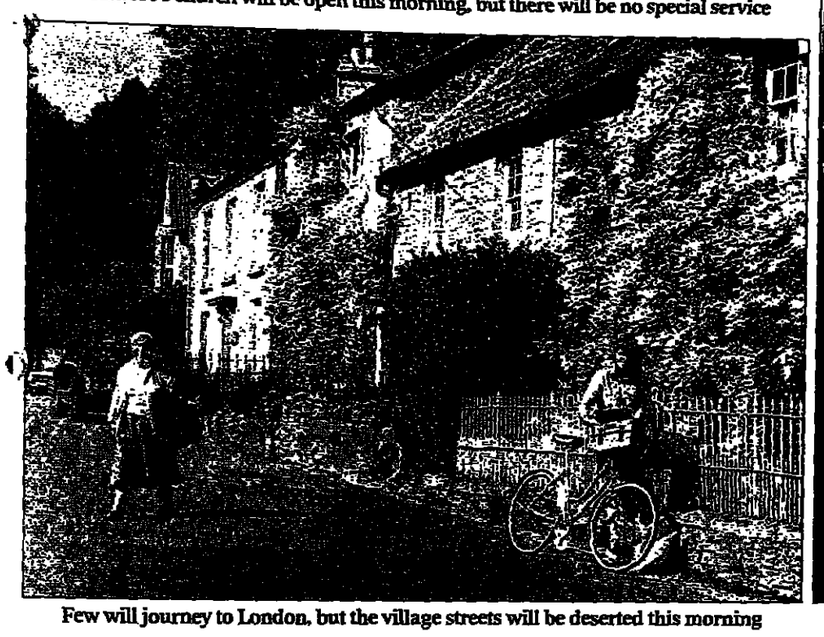
Wedmore's church will be open this morning, but there will be no special service



Village shops will close while the funeral takes place



Margaret Redman, chairwoman of the parish council, raising the flag to half-mast



Few will journey to London, but the village streets will be deserted this morning

Like communities nationwide, Wedmore in Somerset is striving to cope with its grief, writes **Simon de Bruxelles**

The inscriptions in a Somerset churchyard record long-forgotten family tragedies. "Sacred to the memory of Sarah Toogood who died October 14, 1837, aged 38 years" is typical. The stories they tell are from an age when premature death was for the majority the expectation, if not the rule. It is repeated with only minor variations in towns and villages across the country.

Countless small communities ill-prepared for loss have this week had to face the death of Diana, Princess of Wales with little opportunity to join the thousands paying their respects in the capital.

The 1,500 residents of Wedmore in Somerset are typical. For most, the Princess's death has been an event as traumatic as any they can remember. But because the village is more than 125 miles and several hours away from London few, if any, will have made the journey today. Some feel guilt that they will not be there to mourn as the funeral procession passes. Others would prefer to stay at home and to nurse their grief in private. A few confess bemusement at the public emotion they are able to see but not share. The discussions taking place on Wedmore's streets this week, in its shops and in the village hall, have been echoed in communities across Britain: Should the golf club close for the day? Can the village flower show be cancelled? Would a torchlight procession be inappropriate?

Recent history sets no precedent. Older residents recall with clarity the funerals of George VI and Sir Winston Churchill. None can remember anything like this.

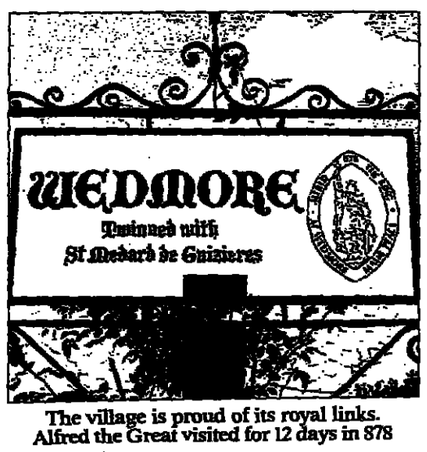
For many of a younger generation, weaned on antibiotics and the welfare state, the Princess is the first of their contemporaries to die. Louise Seymour, 30, was one of those who was surprised by the depth of her reaction. "I never expected to feel like this and I'm not sure why I am," she admitted.

"I didn't know Diana. I never met her, yet I feel it is a personal loss. Perhaps it is because she was 36, the same age as my husband. Whatever the reason, I can't stop thinking about it all the time."

As the funeral begins Mrs Seymour will be on the start of a long-planned holiday and she feels uneasy. "It will feel a bit strange being on a ferry to France while the rest of the country is involved in this."

Steven Beavan, 16, whose parents run the New Inn in Wedmore, made the mistake of telling a friend as he was given a lift to a Sunday league football match. "He was so shocked," said Steven, "that he swerved across the other side of the road and nearly hit an oncoming car."

Wedmore has a long tradition of commemorating royal events, although it is more than 1,100 years since last full-scale royal visit. The most recent members of the Royal Family to pass though were George VI and Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother. Their limousine slowed but did not stop on its way to a prewar social function. Before that one has to go back to 878, when Alfred the Great chose to spend 12 days at his hunting lodge in the village after his victory over the Danes. The town has traded on its royal connection ever since, although no trace has ever been found of Alfred's house.



The village is proud of its royal links. Alfred the Great visited for 12 days in 878

Coronations and jubilees were a good excuse for a party. In 1727 the vestry minutes record that Joseph Dornett, landlord of the George Hotel, was given the then vast sum of £1 10s from church funds to pay for beer to celebrate the "Crowneation Day" of George II. Three days later, the same minutes record a further payment of 10s to make good the damage caused during the festivities.

Today the George is popular with youngsters. Even they have been unnaturally subdued this week. Maureen Hodge, the landlady, said: "Several of our regulars haven't been in at all this week and the atmosphere has been very quiet generally. I think many of the young men find it very difficult to articulate their feelings."

Departures as well as arrivals were commemorated. In January 1901, Wedmore turned out in force to pay its last respects to Queen Victoria, who, like the Princess, was the most famous woman of her day.

Two hundred people took part in a procession around the village, led by the Wedmore brass band. They included the officers of the Ancient Borough Court, the two Port Reeves (market officials) carrying their long staves of office, the water bailiff, the ale-taster, the bread-weigher and the hay warden.

The march was followed by a service in the St Mary's, the parish church, attended by every man, woman and child in the village who could walk, and several who could not. A yew tree was planted in the churchyard a few yards from the grave where, in the first year of Victoria's reign, Sarah Toogood had been buried. It was also close to the spot where a local man called Tucker Coles dug up a hoard of Saxon coins, most of which are now in the British Museum. He used the reward money to emigrate to America, only to die fighting in the Civil War. Muriel Welch, a lifelong resident of Wedmore and a member of the parish council, said: "If this parish council doesn't do anything it ought to be ashamed. If we can't have a beacon, there should be a torchlit procession through the village followed by a service in the church. How is it going to look if other villages do something and we don't?"

After discussions with the vicar, the Rev Liz Cross, a compromise was agreed. The church will be open for private prayers and the lighting of candles this morning but there will be no special service.

Liz Bull, the parish clerk, will fly village's Union Jack at half-mast outside the council's tiny redbrick office this morning. The streets will be deserted and the shops will all be shut. Other flags in the village are already at half-mast, but the only other outward signs of mourning are the black-mounted pictures of the Princess in a few windows.

Wedmore, which sits on a lush green island above the wetlands of the Somerset Levels, represents an England still in some ways unchanged since the death of Queen Victoria. Many residents were born in the village, and support nearly 50 local organisations, from the Beekeeping Association to the Preserving Society, a shooting group whose 40 members dine once a year on a rook pie containing up to 150 birds.

Peter Tinney, 59, a dairy farmer, has been involved with many of them over the years and is president of the thriving Young Farmers club. He expects to weep today. "I remember Kennedy's death and people's reaction then was totally different," he said. "Then we were worried about the future of the world. This has been a personal tragedy felt by everyone individually, rather than by the community collectively.

"Often after something dreadful happens you see people in a huddle in the street. You know from their posture and the hushed tone of their voices what they are talking about. That hasn't happened this time, and it's not because people aren't upset."

His wife, Margaret, believes the shock of unexpected death has yet to achieve its full impact: "I don't think it is going to hit home until there really is no more Diana."

What sort of memorial to the Princess would the people of Wedmore like to see? Liz Beavan, landlady of the New Inn, had no doubt. She had no sympathy for grandiose public monuments, such as the Albert Memorial. "Diana was an immensely practical person," she said. "I don't think she be at all keen on the idea of having concert halls or cruise liners named after her. I believe the best tribute that we could pay to her would be to show a little bit more understanding and care towards other people. I think that would be something she would like.

"Everyone has been treating people with a little more respect this week. This tragic event has really brought the nation together."

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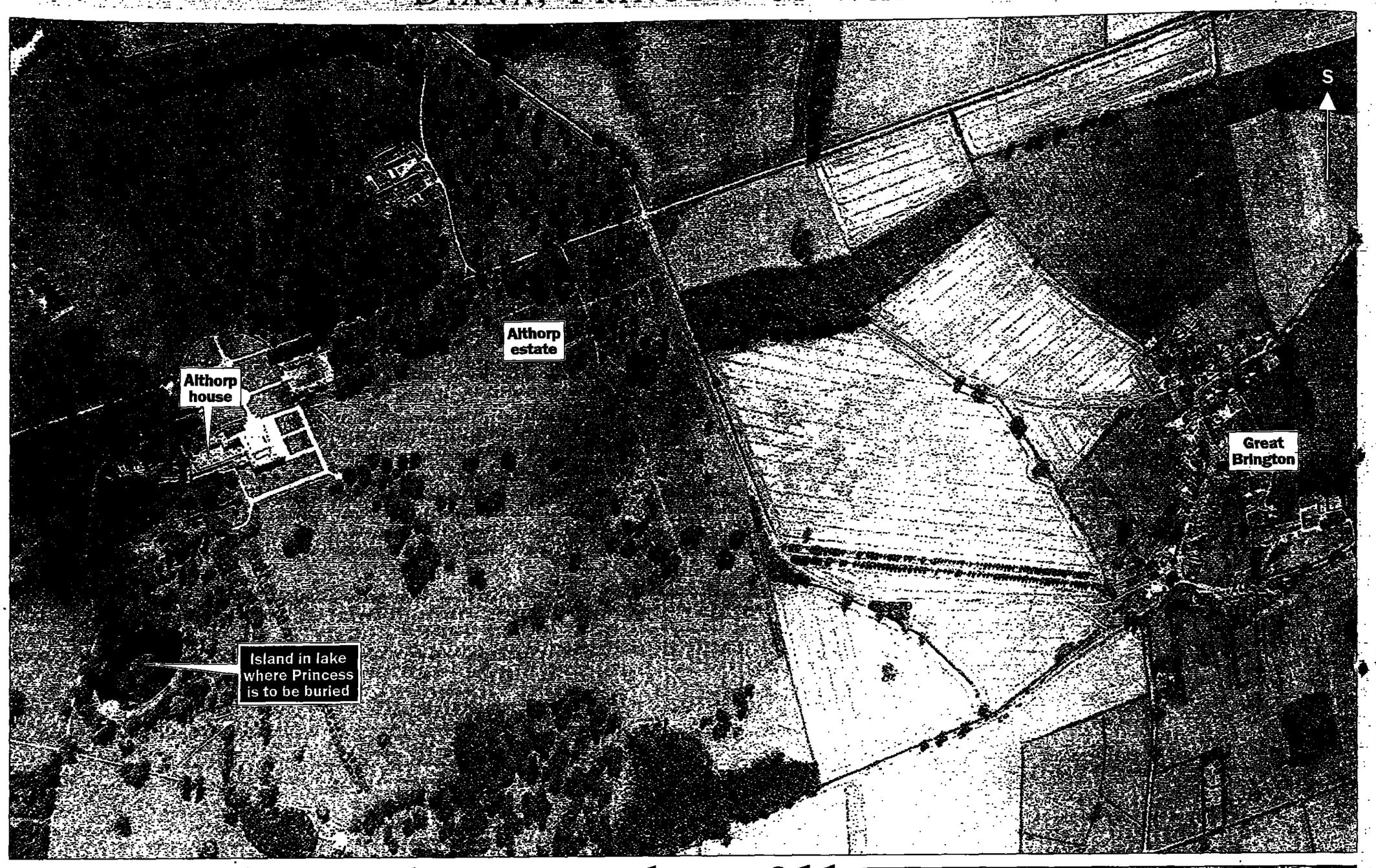
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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES



Island in the park will be final resting place

The Princess will now be buried in Althorp's grounds to prevent Great Brington from being overrun by visitors

BY JOANNA BALE

THE Princess is to be buried inside the grounds of her ancestral family home at Althorp rather than in the Spencer family chapel, Earl Spencer announced yesterday.

The decision was made because of fears that interment at the chapel in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brington, would have overwhelmed the Northamptonshire village with visitors for years to come.

The Princess will be buried in a private ceremony, on an island surrounded by an ornamental lake, known as the Oval, 100 yards from the house. An ancient arboretum, where she and her sons planted trees, lies beyond.

The Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev Ian Cundy, consecrated the area on Thursday. A special bridge has been built for the ceremony to enable mourners to walk on to the island, though it has not been decided whether this will be permanent. The Spencer family plans to continue to open Althorp Park for several weeks each year, enabling the public to view the burial site. They may also build a permanent memorial to the Princess outside the park. In a statement, Earl Spencer said: "It has been decided to bury Diana, Princess of Wales, in the grounds of Althorp Park, where her grave can be properly looked after by her family and visited in privacy by her sons.


Bishop Cundy: he has consecrated the ground

"This change of plan has the wholehearted support of the Spencer family. It is proposed to open the place of burial each year for a number of weeks, so that the general public can pay their respects.

"But appropriate public safety and security measures must be taken in view of the anticipated number of people who may wish to visit.

"The family have agreed to consult with the police and local authorities before announcing dates when the park will open.

"At the same time, the Spencer family is looking into the possibility of a permanent memorial to Diana outside the park. The family's request for privacy at the burial is strongly reiterated."

Jean MacPherson, the wife of the Rev David MacPherson, priest-in-charge of Great Brington, said yesterday: "I have just been along to the church and the feeling is relief in many ways."

Mr MacPherson had said that the church was likely to become a "place of pilgrimage", adding: "Frankly, I wonder if it will ever end."

A spokesman for the diocese said: "The earl rang Rev MacPherson and said that he was bothered by the pressure on the church. It was decided that the burial should take place in the grounds of Althorp. This this was entirely the wishes of the Spencer family.

"The Bishop of Peterborough, during a private visit to Althorp, formally consecrated an area of land within the estate for the burial. He offered prayers and sympathy from the diocese to Earl Spencer and his family on their loss."

The Oval, which lies within the pleasure garden at Althorp, was designed by Samuel Lapidge, the right-hand man of the great landscape designer Capability Brown. During the 1850s the 5th Earl Spencer, who was First Lord of the Admiralty, restored the area and brought the temple from the Admiralty House gardens in London to stand on the banks of the lake.

The collection of rare trees surrounding the Oval has been planted by members of the Royal Family, the Earls Spencer and their families since 1833. Prince William and Prince Harry have both planted oaks in the immediate vicinity, as have the Princess, her father, her brother and her two sisters.

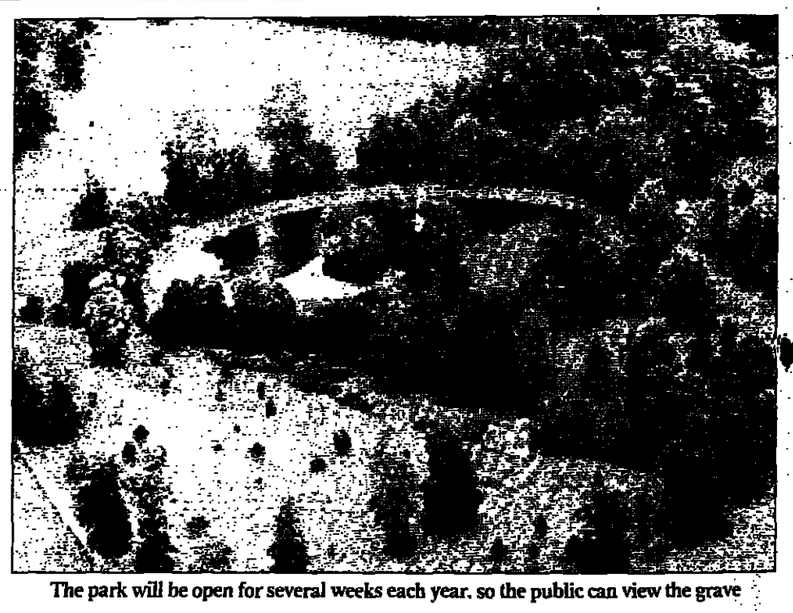
Villagers in Great Brington had been worried about being overrun by tourists if the Princess was buried alongside 20 generations of Spencers, including her father, in the family chapel. There were also concerns that the 13th-century church would be unable to stand the rigours of large number of visitors who might treat it as a shrine.

Queues of people waiting to lay flowers at the church and sign books of condolence had disrupted the village this week, before police banned visitors by creating an exclusion zone on Thursday night, which is to last until Monday morning.

Rosalie Clarke, who works in the village post office, said: "It's a big relief. All my customers feel the same way because we have been overrun with people and were worried that this would continue for years to come. The new site is a nice place for Diana to be laid at rest."

A spokesman for the earl said: "The church is an ancient building and would not be able to sustain the number of visitors. The village and its roads would become clogged with traffic and people, becoming dangerous."

Althorp and its grounds are normally open to the public throughout July and August, with entry tickets costing £6. Asked whether the earl would charge people to visit the Princess's grave, the spokeswoman added: "It is too early to say. There are still so many decisions to be made about how this will be organised."


The park will be open for several weeks each year, so the public can view the grave

Boarding school life will help Princes

Security and privacy will let boys grieve in their own way, writes Gregory Cameron

It may seem a cruel act of parenting to send two boys away from the family home to boarding school so shortly after their bereavement — the prospect facing Prince William and Prince Harry — but the experience is not as bleak as supposed from the popularly held Victorian image of such schools.

Term is already starting at Eton College, where Prince William will enter his third year, and at Ludgrove, Prince Harry's Berkshire prep school, and the Princes are likely to return to them in the near future. Life within a boarding school will probably free them to be more themselves, to grieve in their own ways and to begin to come to terms with their loss in the world at large.

This may well mean that the experience is more beneficial than at a day school, because of the security offered by a close, and closed, community. Bereavement in childhood is a difficult process to face. It is one of the first occasions that death and loss have truly been encountered, so that the insulation provided by previous experience is absent.

Within the family environment, children may often feel pressure to suppress their grief and to act out artificial roles in the family. One child may try to act as the family "jester", jollying the rest of the family out of their grief, or at least pretending "I'm all right". Others may feel pressurised to behave more grief-stricken than they feel, to meet what they believe is expected of them. Such pressures will be all the greater for Prince William and Prince Harry, who face not only the pressures of Royal Family life behind the palace doors but the expectations of a nation.

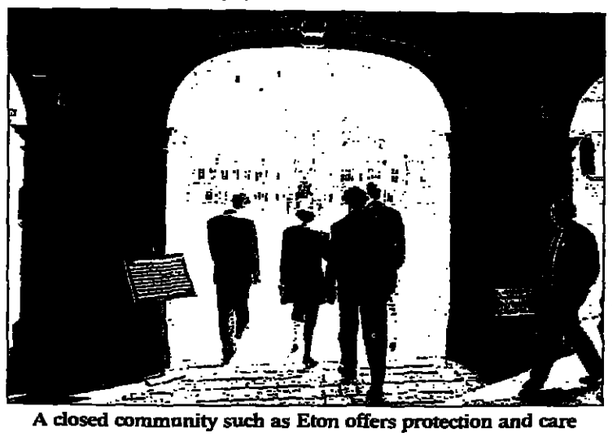
The Princes are returning to communities in which they are established and respected, amongst friends — both pupils and staff — who will wish to support them with gentle love. Here they will be able to be insulated from the world.

Nor are boarding schools the cold communities of our imagination. *Tom Brown's Schooldays* was written 140 years ago but is still the dominant perception of the regimes behind the gates of a Rugby or an Eton. Images of a windy dormitory, with a weeping child forgotten on his bed, spring too easily to mind.

In reality, boarding has changed radically. The "house" units to which pupils are assigned have become smaller in number — perhaps 40 or 50 pupils, fewer in a prep school — to encourage a family atmosphere. Even then, pupils will be grouped into smaller units: year or tutor groups, with a tutor looking after perhaps a dozen children.

Houses tend to be headed by a husband and wife team prepared to open their own homes to pupils needing support. Nor should we forget the pastoral role of the matron or housemother (in Eton they are given the half-grand, half-pantomime title of Dame). Employed to head the domestic regime, matrons are liberated by the absence of teaching and disciplinary status to offer an informal motherly care.

Boarding schools take great pains to be a home from home. Admittedly, the paint may be peeling a little and the decor a little sparse, but pupils are met with care and sensitivity. School rules matter less in a pastoral crisis. A sofa in the staff accommodation becomes available as an alternative bed for the pupil who wants to have "space", walks in the grounds allow one-to-one conversations. "What would you do in a family crisis with one of your pupils?" asked one head, interviewing for a housemistress. "Well, first, we'd make a cup of tea together," came the reply.


A closed community such as Eton offers protection and care

The social services, empowered to carry out inspections by the Children Act, have been agreeably surprised by the quality of pastoral support. The Act has encouraged schools to offer a professional standard of care. The whole school can become a healing community. It will often be told of a pupil's bereavement by the head or chaplain at morning prayers in the chapel. As a former school chaplain, I remember how a hushed sense of solidarity would come upon the school when such announcements were made.

☐ *The Rev Gregory Cameron is director of the Bloxham Project, which assists boarding and day schools to develop pastoral care.*

Alma mater plans bursary tribute

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BURSARY to help a girl from a disadvantaged background to attend boarding school is being planned in honour of the Princess of Wales.

Her old school, West Heath, in Sevenoaks, Kent, where she spent five years, closed in July through lack of pupils, but Ann Williamson, its former headmistress, said the bursary would allow a girl to attend another similar school. "We want to be able to show Diana's caring attitude by awarding a bursary which will reflect her support for young people."

Mrs Williamson said the "awful irony" of closure coinciding with the Princess's death had made former pupils, staff and governors determined to commemorate her. Mrs Williamson will be among many old girls and staff of the school at the funeral service.

Their most poignant moment will come with the singing of the school hymn, *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*. "Many of Diana's year from school will be there," Mrs Williamson said. "I think I will be all right until the singing of the school hymn, which will be like a requiem for West Heath as well as Diana."

Serena Nickson, who will be representing the West Heath Old Girls Society at Westminster Abbey, said that the group planned to hold a service for the Princess later in the year. The Princess left West Heath, aged 16, in 1978.

The school closed in July after rumours of its precarious bank balance left only about 50 girls signed up for the autumn term, which would have started last Wednesday.

It meant a last-minute search for schools for the loyal parents, including Lady Sarah McCorquodale, the Princess's sister, whose 14-year-old daughter, Emily, attended the 162-year-old school.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Under the spell of a rare and illuminating personality

Richard Attenborough became a lasting friend after helping the young bride in public speaking. A shy start soon gave way to a somewhat wicked sense of humour, he writes

I first met Princess Diana shortly after her wedding. Knowing that she would inevitably have to undertake an increasing number of public engagements, Prince Charles wrote to ask if I would coach his bride in public speaking. I, of course, agreed to do so most willingly.

In the beginning she was clearly nervous and my first task was to encourage a measure of self-confidence. She struck me as being genuinely shy but, despite this reticence, my overwhelming impression was of an enchanting, somewhat wicked sense of humour, most often applied to herself.

Through those meetings we became lasting friends and soon I began to find myself on the receiving end of her humour. This was usually manifested in the form of a peremptory note about some public utterance I had made in which she would sternly and precisely echo some of my own injunctions on the subject of public speaking. Her critical remarks were not, however, limited to my speeches. Once, over lunch, she took exception to my pink and green Garrick Club tie.

"How you can continue to wear that ghastly thing, I really don't know. I'll send you something decent."

And, of course, she did. But then she always did what she said she'd do. I asked her to become President of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Unhesitatingly, she accepted, on condition that the Queen, who was Patron, approved. She visited the academy several times, always laughing when she saw that I was wearing "her" tie.

"I'm not a royalist. She doesn't mean anything to me," one of the students might say beforehand. But, without exception, by the end of the day they would have joined her never-ending army of admirers. There were, you see, no barriers as far as she was concerned. She had this remarkable and, in my experience, unique ability to put you at your ease, making you feel, at that particular moment, that you were one person in the world to whom she wished to talk.

Contrary to common perception, Diana was truly intelligent herself, certainly not academic but somehow profoundly intuitive with an ability to master any brief on any subject with impressive skill.

I completed my film *In Love and War* last year and, since the story focused on the Red Cross, I asked if the organisation would care to benefit from a charity premiere with the Princess of Wales as guest of honour. As Diana was already having discussions with Mike Whitlam, director-general of the British Red Cross, about the possibility of renewing her official involvement, it was agreed that I should make the approach. She immediately said that she would be happy to attend the premiere and suggested we meet to discuss the matter further.

> 'Soon I began to find myself on the receiving end of her humour'

I had helped to launch the first stage of the anti-landmine campaign some time previously and, as soon as we began to talk, it was evident that the idea of generating funds to aid the victims appealed to her enormously. This culminated in her visit to Angola under the auspices of the Red Cross, accompanied by a BBC Television crew.

Before she went, she was concerned that she might be venturing into an area of activity which might be wrongly construed as political and we debated the pros and cons very carefully. But of one thing she was certain: the obscenity of landmines should be brought to public attention. For my part, I felt that whatever the political risks, the cause more than justified a decision to go.

On her return, one somewhat condescending and pompous previous government minister described the Princess as a "loose cannon". We showed an excerpt from her Angola documentary at the film premiere and, in thanking Diana for her attendance, I added — not without a touch of anger — that, "for a loose cannon, she seemed to me to have recorded a hell of a bull's-eye".

Once again, she had adjudged the public mood perfectly. The whole campaign really took off. Governments around the world, led by Robin Cook's announcement that the United Kingdom will sign an agreement to ban land mines, are even now discussing such a proposal in Oslo with the idea that it might be known as the Princess Diana Treaty.

Her kindness and goodwill was, of course, by no means exhibited only in the limelight. At the recent premiere, my seven-year-old granddaughter was to present her with a bouquet. Having endlessly rehearsed her curtsy, Lucy suddenly had to cope with a souvenir programme which was thrust into her other hand at the last moment.

Although she managed to hand over both bouquet and programme, her bob was completely forgotten. When I told Diana that Lucy was mortified, she immediately turned back from the threshold of the auditorium and asked to be shown the curtsy. "I've never seen a more perfect one," she said. Result, one small child devoted to her for life.

Over the years, we had innumerable private and intimate conversations, touching on many diverse subjects. But, one way or another, we always seemed to come round to the same over-riding concern: her sons.

She longed to give them the most normal life possible while, at the same time, ensuring that Prince William was fully prepared, ultimately, to accede to the throne.

She believed passionately that many of the old conventions had to be blown away, that her children should be allowed to witness the life led by millions of United Kingdom citizens. She did not want them to be ring-fenced by protective seclusion or red carpets. She felt the boys needed to see at first hand the deprivation, the pain and the cruelty of contemporary life. She certainly never shied away from it herself.

A few months ago, I asked her if she would come to Leicester University to open a specially designed centre for disability and the arts.

She arrived by helicopter to be greeted by crowds who had waited several hours just to catch a glimpse of her. I — as always wearing "her" tie — introduced the appropriate dignitaries. Then, accompanied by Eleanor Hartley, the director of the centre, she began her tour.

My most poignant memory of that event is the 25 minutes she spent with a group of severely disabled young people, many with cerebral palsy and in wheelchairs, who involved her in their dance display. There were no cameras, no onlookers — just Eleanor, the dancers, their helpers and me. This I shall never forget and neither, of course, will the dancers.

She left Leicester by helicopter, as she had arrived. On the very same day, by the time my wife and I had returned to London by car, a handwritten letter from Diana awaited us. She wanted to say how much the event had meant to her. Her courtesies were impeccable.

And now she is gone. It is impossible to estimate how many lives have been illuminated by her extraordinary personality. Judging by the numbers who have placed flowers in her memory or queued throughout the day or night to register their written condolences, she has, in her all too brief life, had an impact greater than any of us can ever recall.

During my own long life, I have been privileged to meet many exceptional humanitarians. None, however, has impressed me more profoundly than the young Princess Diana, whose tragic and untimely death has left the whole world bereft.

She was indeed the people's princess, one who never allowed wealth or position to dull the intense compassion she felt for those whom society had abandoned or cast out. Although she herself was beautiful and fashionable, the causes closest to her heart were neither. She wanted above all to help those who had no voice and were helpless.

Her fame, which proved such a relentless burden, she put to the service of the wounded, the terminally ill and the dispossessed. In remembering her, we must continue to remember, sustain and care for them in her name. She could have no more fitting memorial.

NEVILLE CHADWICK



The Princess and Richard Attenborough at the opening in May of the centre for disability and the arts at Leicester University



Watching polo at Windsor in the early days of her marriage

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DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Princess spoke of new role as Blair emissary

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN AND CAROL MIDGLEY

TONY BLAIR had struck up a partnership with the Princess and asked her to undertake missions abroad, she revealed in one of the last interviews she gave before her death.

In the interview, published in the *New Yorker* and written by the Editor, Tina Brown, the Princess also declared that she did not believe the Prince of Wales had the right qualities to be King. He was a follower not a leader, she said.

But she praised the Duke of York — whom she described as "the best of the bunch" — and the Princess Royal for working hard while receiving little recognition.

She also said that she was vesting all her hopes on Prince William, whom she wanted to be "as smart as John Kennedy Jr" at handling the media. She had tried in vain to persuade the Royal Family to appoint a media guru like Peter Mandelson, "but they didn't want to hear it. They kept saying I was manipulative."

The interview was conducted in June over lunch at The Four Seasons restaurant in New York. The Princess is said to have been enthusiastic about the new Prime Minister: "I think at last I will have someone who will know how to *use* me. He's told me he wants me to go on some missions. I'd really really like to go to China. I'm very good at sorting people's heads out."

She admitted that she regretted not being Queen one day. Ms Brown writes: "We are about to order coffee, and I ask the Princess if she regrets the loss of her chance to be Queen.

"I assume she will avoid answering, but she surprises me. 'Yes, yes,' she says quickly, her eyes lowered. Then she looks up. 'We would have been the best team in the world. I could shake hands till the cows come home. And Charles could make serious speeches. But' — she shakes her head — 'it was not to be.'"

The Princess, Ms Brown continues, also made clear her belief that the Prince would not make an ideal king: "You see, Charles is not a leader. He's a follower. He was born to the wrong job. He'd have been so happy with a house in Tuscany, being a host to artists. He just wasn't cut out for what he got"



Brown: report includes analysis of Royal Family

Asked whether the Duchess of York had helped the Royal Family's image, the Princess replied: "No. And it's a shame for Andrew, because he really is the best of the bunch. I mean, people don't know this, but he works really, really hard for the country. He does so much, and no one pays any attention at all. It's the same with Princess Anne. She works like a dog and nobody cares."

Prince William was learning to understand the value of helping disadvantaged and dying people: "I try to din into him all the time about the media — the dangers, and how he must understand and handle it. I think it's too late for the rest of the family."

Before the Hong Kong handover, the Prince of Wales had suggested Prince William should go with him, but he said to his mother: "Mummy, must I? I just don't feel ready."

Asked if she would ever remarry, the Princess said: "Who would take me on? I have so much baggage. Anyone who takes me out to dinner has to accept the fact that their business will be raked over in the papers. I think I am safer alone."

Madonna speaks of Diana at MTV gala

THE pop singer Madonna spoke out about the death of Diana, the Princess of Wales at Friday's MTV Video Music awards.

Introducing a live performance by the British band The Prodigy at Radio City in New York, she said: "I would like to take a moment to talk about what happened to Princess Diana." Dressed in white silk shirt and black tie, she told the hushed crowd: "I am not going to rant and rave about the paparazzi or the irresponsible behaviour of the editors of all the tabloids, because even if they never cease there is still something all of us can do.

"It's time for us to take responsibility for our insatiable need to run after gossip and scandal and lies and rumours ... it's time that we realised that everything that we say and do has an effect on the world around us, that we are all connected ... and until we change our negative behaviour, tragedies like this will continue to occur."

Madonna, who once joked to the Princess that she was the only person who seemed to attract more press attention than herself, claimed packs of intrusive paparazzi are merely the symptom of a sensation-hungry public. She told *The Times* earlier this week: "As much as I want to blame the press, we have all blood on our hands. All of us, even myself, bought those magazines and read them.

"Until we no longer feel it is our right to read about people's private lives, until we lose our fascination with scandal and sensational journalism, we are never going to act. It is all our faults."

The 39-year-old superstar, who met the Princess just once, at a charity cocktail party in London two years ago, said she did battle daily with photographers.

Meanwhile, the Spice Girls, who won the prize for Best Dance Video for their hit single *Wannabe*, have dedicated the award to the Princess. Mel C — Sporty Spice — said: "We'd like to dedicate this award to Princess Diana, who is a great loss to our country. She was a fantastic ambassador for Great Britain."

ADAM NADEL



Madonna at the music awards. "We must take responsibility," she said

Stars try to turn tables on tabloid pursuers

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THREE top actors are believed to have hired a team of detectives to investigate the private lives of America's best-known tabloid editors, in growing anger among celebrities over paparazzi tactics and paymasters.

The attempt to use tabloid methods against the editors of *The National Enquirer*, *The Star* and *The Globe* comes amid calls in the California state assembly for tough new laws against photographers who work for them. One leading supermarket chain has removed the "supermarket tabloids" from its shelves.

Tony Frost, of *The Globe*, and Phil Brunton, of *The Star* — both British — and Steve Coz, of the *Enquirer*, will soon find private investigators conducting background checks on their "wives, girlfriends, children, parents, siblings and school chums," according to the syndicated columnist Liz Smith. She did not name the stars behind the probe but wrote: "Believe me, they are mega."

Reports that the Princess's driver was drunk at the time of her death have done nothing to dampen the verbal onslaught by Californian glitterati on those who hound them, too. On the contrary, it was the sight of "tabloid journalists dodging responsibility and placing blame on a drunken driver" that compelled George Clooney to speak out this week.

"I watch as you scramble for the high ground and take your position saying there is a market for your publications and you are just supplying the goods," he said before drawing a comparison between tabloid journalists and crack dealers. "I wonder how you sleep at night."

Four of the most powerful faces in film have joined the Clooney crusade. Tom Cruise was the first, recognising the Paris crash scene and telephoning CNN to urge editors not to buy pictures taken there.

Sylvester Stallone has called the Princess's pursuers members of "a small, renegade group of legalised stalkers", and John Travolta gave an emotional television interview offering succour to the Prince of Wales and his sons, and urging governments to revisit the question of privacy laws.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, who is embroiled in a legal battle with two British photographers, described "the chilling experience of being chased and hunted down like animals" for a photograph. He was recovering from heart surgery and his wife, Maria Shriver, was pregnant, when they were allegedly stopped in traffic in Santa Monica by the British pair, who face charges of battery and are expected to try to settle the case out of court.

Tom Hayden, a Californian state senator best known as a champion of the poor and oppressed and, as a former husband of Jane Fonda, plans to sponsor a state bill that would require photographers to stay at least 50ft from celebrities not at public events. Such bills have foundered on definitions of celebrity and public events.

A world apart and yet so very close

Ben Macintyre, Paris correspondent, was at his home in Argyllshire when news broke

There is a familiar moment at the end of summer in the West Highlands of Scotland, when the local folk draw up the boats, and draw into themselves a little, growing an extra protective skin as they prepare to hunker down for the long winter. The days, and some tempers, begin to grow shorter. That change seemed to come early this year, and more bleakly.

Viewed from the South, the Scottish reaction to the death of the Princess has been seen by some as pinched and undemonstrative: too much Calvinist "the show must go on" and not enough open grief. Where I come from, hard religion and hard weather have produced a tough race for whom sentiment is itself a form of luxury. Sadness is not worn openly here, but in a quiet and profound way this, too, is a community suddenly knocked out of kilter, in shocked mourning over something that happened a world away, and next door.

The day after the tragedy, I drove along the loch to the nearby fishing village. A sharp little wind was whipping off the bay. The harbour street was deserted but for a few seagulls and a Danish yachting family. Even the drinkers, whose broad backs hold up the hotel porch in every weather, had disappeared.

My conversations with people "in town" normally follow a strict pattern, and a restrictive subject matter: the weather (wet); the family (well/poorly); the probable weather to be expected (wet). From time to time, one might stray into world affairs, or even perhaps the doings of the Royal Family, but usually only by way of illustrating that the rest of humanity (starting well before the outskirts of Glasgow) is in a strange place.

On Monday, the usual ebb and flow of gossip had dried up. The talk in the shops was hushed. The death was an event so horrible, so distant from daily life and yet suddenly so close, that it could only be approached crab-wise. I met Archie, the former grocer, in the Co-op that has become the town's only sizeable food shop. "You'll be living in Paris now," he offered carefully, and then fell silent. After a few moments we agreed, obliquely, that most people must be inside watching the television. "Terrible, terrible business," he added, and swiftly moved away.

In the newsagents, a little knot was gathered around the black bordered copies of the newspapers. Not reading, just staring. Usually garrulous, the newsagent herself was wordlessly arranging and rearranging the Silk Cut, with unconvincing concentration. I wondered if, as a provider of news and thus in some way an implicit accomplice of the paparazzi, she felt guilty before her silent customers, as I did. I bought the paper, avoiding her eye, and hurried out.

It takes something momentous to shift the steady, hardened rhythm of this place. This week that should have been the debate over Scottish devolution. I have yet to hear the subject raised. *The Oban Times*, the usually perky purveyor of agricultural events and grainy photographs of primary school children, devoted its entire front page to the death of the Princess: the Shinty Association had postponed all its fixtures, the paper announced, and Tesco in Campbeltown was closing today. The Dalmally agricultural show, a major event in the life of Argyll, may still go ahead — farming life must go on — but the dance afterwards was cancelled. Inverary Castle was closed.

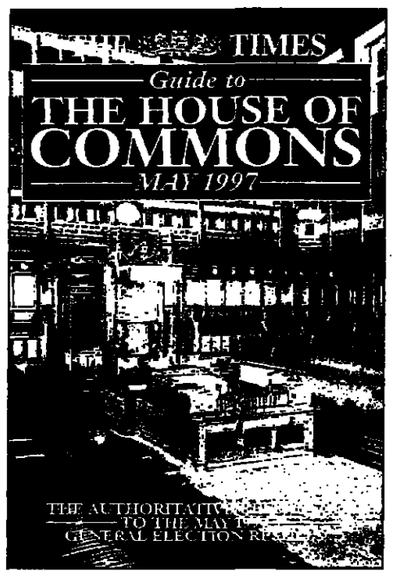
The paper noted that although, as Princess of Wales, Diana had made only one official visit to the area, "here in the West Highlands, perhaps because of family associations, we feel the loss in a very particular way." Columnist "McCaig" pointed out that the young Diana had spent summers as a teenager with her mother on the island of Seil and that, therefore, "she was almost a local girl". I have never heard her referred to before as a local. To earn that title in requires several generations. Of all the tributes, this was one of the more touching.

The particular pride, and the wonder, of this place, is its very remoteness from the rest of the world's pre-occupation. If anywhere might have been expected to stand back a little from the outpouring of national grief, I thought it would be here. Instead, for the first time I can remember, a world event has rocked this little world, rendering it strangely vulnerable. There are few more peaceful or tranquil places in Britain. For once, it felt invaded by a ripple of regret and melancholy.

I have always seen our retreats here as a respite from the news. I felt it would always remain unaffected by the outer world of telegrams and anger, fast cars, famous people and front pages. I was quite wrong.

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Kind cousin provides comfort for Princes

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE kindness and support of Peter Phillips, son of the Princess Royal, is proving invaluable to Prince William and Prince Harry.

When the young Princes flew to London from Balmoral yesterday to prepare for their mother's funeral, it was Mr Phillips, 19, who joined them on the Queen's Flight to RAF Northolt with their father, the Prince of Wales.

The two boys, dressed in black, were driven from Balmoral to Aberdeen airport by their father.

Prince William looked away from the waiting photographers while his younger brother and their cousin stared ahead.

Mr Phillips has been at Balmoral since his cousins were told of their mother's death.

His sympathy and understanding have touched the Princes, who have long admired Mr Phillips for his good humour and sporting abilities: he is showing particular promise at rugby and excelled at all games while at school at Gordonstoun.

When the Princes ventured to the gates of Balmoral on Thursday their cousin was at their side — pointing out messages and tributes on the numerous bouquets.

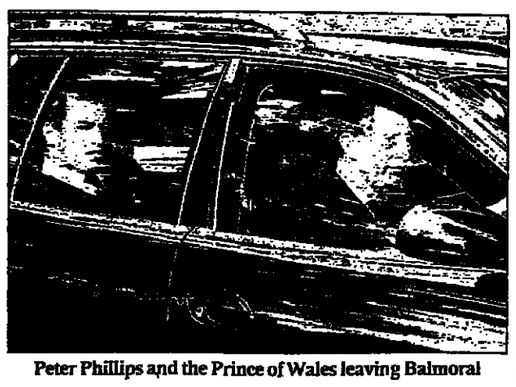
Mr Phillips, who is going to Exeter University later this month to read sports science, has shown considerable understanding for the Princes in the past over the break-up of their parents' marriage.

He knows from the first hand experience of the divorce of his mother from his father, Captain Mark Phillips, just how traumatic that experience can be.

Mr Phillips, who lives with his mother and sister, Zara, at Gatcombe Park in Gloucestershire, has had a relatively unspoilt childhood.

While Mr Phillips has featured in the columns of the tabloid press, media interest in him has never been as intense as that on Prince William and Prince Harry — partly because he does not have a royal title. Mr Phillips, however, does have one strong bond in common with Prince William, who is considered the royal heartthrob by teenage girls.

His older cousin knows just how embarrassing this supposed "honour" is to a maturing teenage boy — until recently it was he who was consistently voted the favourite royal by readers of teenage girls' magazines.



Peter Phillips and the Prince of Wales leaving Balmoral

The management and employees of MESH Computers PLC wish to extend their sincere condolences to the family of Diana Princess of Wales.

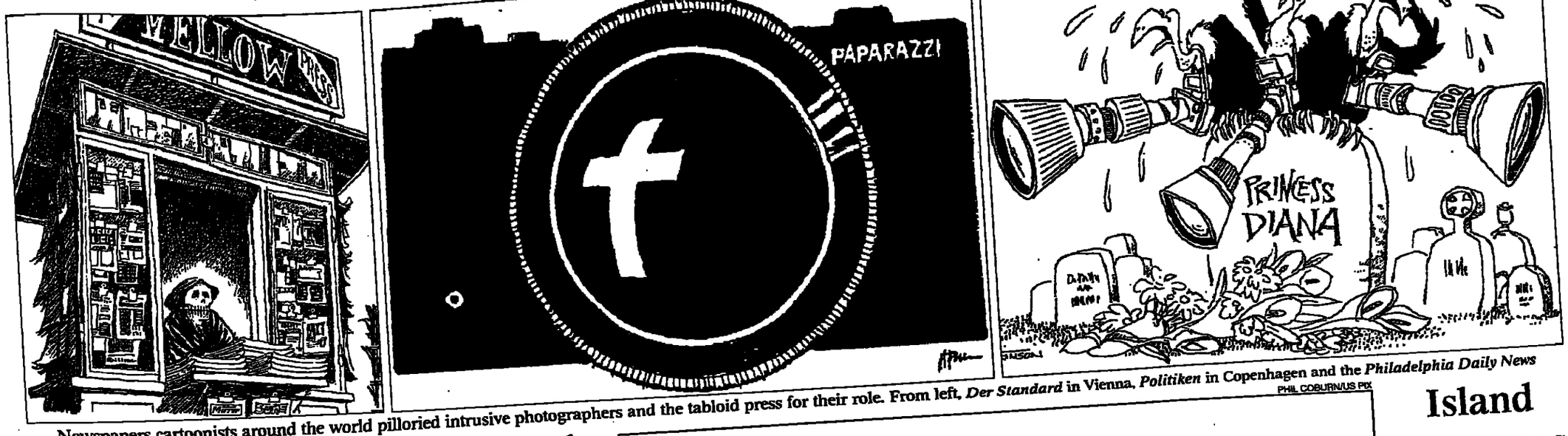
In particular we would like to extend our thoughts, prayers and best wishes to her sons Prince William and Prince Harry in this time of tragedy.

Our country has been enriched by the dedication and humanity of one so special and our loss as a nation is incalculable.

As a mark of our respect we shall be closed Saturday 6th September 1997.

MESH

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES



Newspapers cartoonists around the world pilloried intrusive photographers and the tabloid press for their role. From left, *Der Standard* in Vienna, *Politiken* in Copenhagen and the *Philadelphia Daily News*

PHIL COBURN/US PIX

US hails 'angel' who was bigger than Jackie

AMERICA

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BIGGER than Jackie, bigger than JFK, bigger than Grace Kelly — the United States seems to have stunned itself by the media coverage and public grief that it has summoned up for the death of a foreign Princess.

If it is possible, American response to the death of the Princess has been even more reverential than in Britain; indeed many newspapers have hailed her as "America's Princess", arguing that she was more at home across the Atlantic. There was some truth in that.

As the *New York Times* put it: "The aggressive component found in the British tabloids' coverage was mostly missing from her relationship with the American mass media. Magazine editors and television executives on this side of the Atlantic described their relationship to Diana as a love affair."

Put more bluntly, they used the pictures, and the pictures looked great. In particular, there is now The Picture, which most newspapers and magazines have settled on as their enduring image of the Princess: the lacy, beaded, white, full-length gown, showing off her square shoulders, which she wore to a White House dinner. As one television commentator put it: "She looks like an angel."

But the dialogue of the breakdown of the royal marriage, spun out to the British public by the tabloids, never made it across the ocean. It was that dialogue that painted a more complex picture of the Princess as someone sometimes less than charitable to her former husband and keenly aware of her power over the media.

Most Britons were aware of the flavour of that. Americans never will be; short of the Princess's *Panorama* interview, the television networks have very little material with which to penetrate her character. Instead, they have endless footage of the Princess in her most successful role — international patron of humanitarian causes. In that role, like a wealthy Washington or New York benefactress, but more elegant, she looked American.

The Princess's death, and the popular backlash in Britain against the royals, have reminded Americans how much they dislike that image of Britain, and how superior they feel to it. The Princess was emotionally "open". scores of television psychologists have pronounced, and there is no greater virtue in modern America. It is clear her real popularity in America came after stories of her extreme unhappiness, and her willingness to discuss it.

In contrast, the royals have taken the British stiff upper lip to the point of cruelty, many newspapers have suggested. "The royals were a notably dysfunctional and aloof and stuffy family," Landon Jones, managing editor for eight years of *People* magazine, which put the Princess on the cover 43 times, said. The kilts, it must be said, confirm that caricature in American eyes; "What on earth are they wearing — is that really tradition?" said one NBC executive incredulously, peering at the shots of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh emerging from church.

But it is the extremes of emotion displayed by the British public that have appeared most troublesome for the American media to describe. The *New York Times* declared on Thursday that "Britons continued to display unaccustomedly raw emotion". In the American media, the Princess's death alone is credited with bringing radical change in the national character. But even if that picture ignores the effects of years of immigration and social change, it may have provoked an overdue reassessment of the British public from across the Atlantic.

Television networks could barely tear themselves away from the queue outside St James's Palace, now taken as the barometer of the mood of the British people. The four national networks each plan at least four hours live coverage, beginning at 4am East Coast time. NBC outclasses the rest: its coverage will begin at 2.30am and run for nearly eight hours.



Bru Pearce overlooks the site, where he hopes to built a new capital named after the Princess of Wales

Plan for Port Diana capital

MONTSERRAT

FROM TOM RHODES IN MONTSERRAT

CLAMBERING through the lush foliage of Potato Hill, Bru Pearce, a British developer, gazed down at the dual Caribbean bays that are the heart of his latest brainchild — a new capital for Montserrat, which he hopes will take the name of Diana, Princess of Wales. At first glance, it is hard to envisage his plans for Port Diana, a picturesque town to replace Plymouth, the capital which has been engulfed by ash and molten rock since the Soufrière Hills volcano erupted. But Mr Pearce, a director of Landbase International, an Anglo-American company based in London and San Antonio, Texas, is more than a little excited by his project at Carr's Bay and Little Bay. "It's perfect," he announced. "This is the most interesting island in the world. That volcano could be the best thing that ever happened to Montserrat. What better way to bring business to Montserrat than by naming the new capital after a woman who did so much to alleviate suffering in the world."

However, many islanders say the Princess had no direct link to the island and have accused Mr Pearce of opportunism. They believe that any capital should be named after local heroes or West Indian figures because had failed in its colonial responsibilities.

Island governors lead memorial services

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE flag flew at half-mast from whitewashed government houses in a dozen tiny islands across the globe, as Britain's dependent territories marked the death.

From the Falklands to the Caymans, from Gibraltar to St Helena, British governors led the mourning and memorial services. Most had taken guidance from the Foreign

TERRITORIES

Office, but the initiative for any ceremonies and commemorations was left to individual territories.

Richard Ralph, Governor of the Falkland Islands, sent a message of condolence on behalf of the 2,100 islanders. On Friday a memorial service was held and all government offices were shut. At the end of the service a minute's silence was observed, and a collection was taken to be sent to the new fund set up in the Princess's memory.

Flags are flying at half-mast, and on Saturday all shops will be closed in Stanley, the tiny capital. Six veterans from the Falklands conflict have been invited to the abbey funeral, representing the different units involved in the 1982 war.

A book of condolences has been opened in the Cayman Islands, and hundreds have signed their names. Tom Russell, the islands' representative in London, said that there was the same feeling of sorrow in the Caribbean islands as in London. There will be a minute's silence during church services on Sunday.

David Smallman, the Governor of St Helena, will deliver the eulogy at a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Princess to be held in the cathedral on Sunday. The island decided not to have any ceremonies on Saturday, to allow the population to watch the service on satellite television.

He said that a steady stream of visitors to the Castle in Jamestown, the seat of Government, had signed the book of condolences.

Gibraltar comes to a standstill on Saturday as Gibraltarians plan to stay home to watch the Princess's funeral live on BBC Prime. From the moment the Governor opened a book of condolence, there has been a permanent queue and more than 2,000 have signed, including British holiday makers from the nearby Spanish beach resorts, among them the singer Cilla Black.

Holidaymakers mourn from afar

SPAIN

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MALAGA

THOUSANDS of Britons in the holiday villas and hotels that stretch along the Mediterranean coast are living the drama surrounding the Princess's death.

Some can no longer enjoy their holidays. A few are going home early. Others are happy to be away from what they claim is an outbreak of collective national hysteria. Others are staying, but do not expect to have much fun.

All down the Costa del Sol the Union Jack, be it outside hotels or on the beach, is at half-mast. Some hotels frequented by British tourists have also dropped the red and gold Spanish flag as an additional sign of respect. The Rev Ray Jones, Fuengirola's Anglican vicar, said that a swell of popular demand persuaded him to hold a memorial service yesterday when 200 people packed into St Andrew's Anglican church. A similar service was held in the small chapel at Marbella's New Cemetery.

Michael Bartram, the British consul in Málaga, said that it was difficult to bring people together when they were visiting for such a short time. Some people had appeared at the consulate in tears. "They wanted to chat. A lot of people have called, asking how they can send flowers or donate to the charity."

Her name was known in even the most fetid slum

INDIA

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA this week demonstrated an abiding empathy with Britain and an understanding of its feelings for the Princess.

Reports of the tragedy reached the nation's hundreds of thousands of villages via government-run All India Radio. The events of the past week have been reported in a mood of sombreness and respect, conveying the impact the Princess had on the world.

She is remembered for one overwhelming image, when she sat alone forlornly at the Taj Mahal, a mausoleum built for a loved wife. The royal marriage was breaking up then, and that photograph had a powerful impact on India. Doordarshan, the government-run television network, has given huge coverage to the tragedy, and satellite television has reached into the homes of the better-off. It has seemed that every English-speaking person has been listening to BBC World Service radio or watching BBC World television.

The Times office received many calls of condolence. The local newspapers' coverage has been huge. Reports that the driver was drunk, dominated front pages, reflecting a similar sense of disgust to that in Britain.

Death has different connotations in India. Here the loss is mitigated by the certainty that the soul lives on and that loved ones will be united. The gap between the Princess's death and her burial has surprised many Indians for whom it is normal to cremate a person within 24 hours.

Mother Teresa, whom the Princess knew for five years, has helped India to articulate its sentiments, praising her as "like an ordinary housewife".

This is a huge compliment in a country built on family unity and loyalty. The Albanian-born Roman Catholic nun and other members of the Missionaries of Charity order in Calcutta will offer special prayers today. British diplomats will also hold a memorial service in Calcutta's St Paul's Cathedral.

But even in the most fetid slum, her name means something.

Thousands weep beneath portrait

JAPAN

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than 6,000 Japanese signed a book of condolence in Tokyo and hundreds of bouquets have piled up at the gates of the British Embassy.

British diplomats extended the condolence period from two to four days. People queued under a blazing sun for more than an hour to sign. Most were middle-aged men in business suits and women carrying lace parasols. Many were in tears as they approached a black and white portrait of the Princess.

A company executive in his 60s said: "There was a real Princess in Diana who chose after the divorce to dedicate herself to causes such as Aids and anti-landmine campaigns. She had an integrity as an independent-minded human being." A woman in her 40s said: "Going to dangerous areas such as Angola and Bosnia is unheard of among members of the Royal Family."

A housewife in her 60s, her eyes welling with tears, said: "I am deeply moved by Diana's caring for the poor and the sick." Another businessman in his 60s said: "I liked her elegance, kindness and unpretentious manner."

The Princess made three visits to Japan between 1986 and 1995. Her open smile and simplicity were seen in stark contrast to the traditional reserve of Japan's Imperial Family.

Popular grief and an air of distaste

FRANCE

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE'S chattering classes view the wave of emotion in Britain over the Princess's death, in Paris, with curiosity and some distaste.

"The cult of Saint Diana is being born," *Le Monde* commented from London. "It is the cult of the perfect woman, somewhere between Marilyn Monroe and Saint Theresa of Lisieux." This caustic line reflects a remarkable consensus across the mainstream media and middle classes over the meaning of what has happened.

There is no doubt that much of France has been touched by the Princess's death and feels great sympathy for her sons. Many are appalled that she met her end at the hands of an allegedly drunk French driver, pursued by a band of French photographers.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, who flew back to the Paris hospital after the accident, said he was certain that the public backed the decision to investigate the paparazzi under manslaughter charges. Some newspapers and defence lawyers say that pressure from Britain forced the decision.

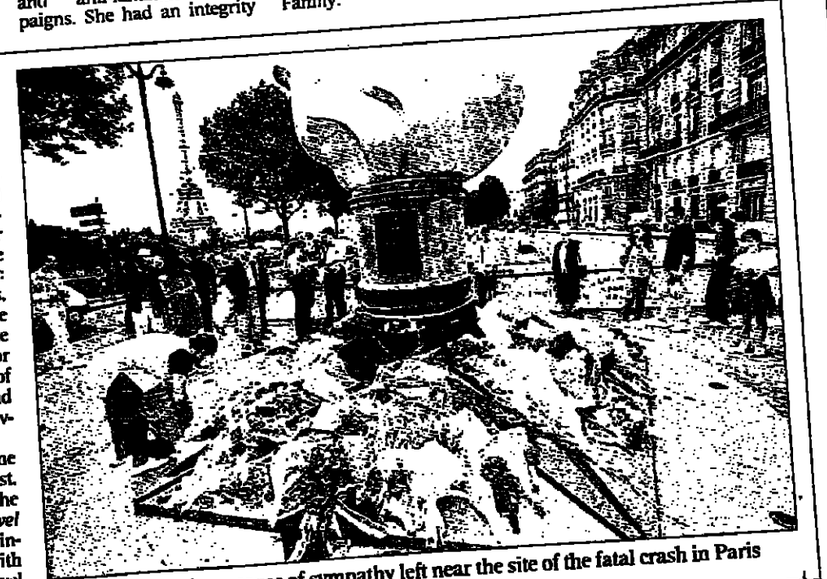
The popular weekly glossy magazines that cater to French royalty-lovers have brought out special issues. A big television audience is expected for the funeral.

However, the French reaction has run along the country's social divide, with the more educated classes voicing an amused aversion for the outpouring of emotion around the world, while the lower orders express their grief. "Jokes" were being told at some Paris dinner parties this week as some newspaper cartoonists mocked the Princess's "beatification".

A fascination for British royalty is held mainly to be the preserve of less educated women, who tend to buy celebrity magazines. The rest of the media take a disdainful view of celebrity news, supporting the country's strict laws on privacy and deploring what they see as the invasion of frivolous Anglo-Saxon values and methods. Against this background, the chattering classes and media have turned the story into a cautionary tale of the excesses of the age. *Le Point*, the news weekly, lamented the "collective hysteria, public commotion and theatricalisation of pity".

The conservative *Figaro* took a very similar line, saying that the Princess had joined the list of popular martyrs that included Princess Grace, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe: "She incarnated a beautiful picture for the magazines with all the contradictions of the century: nostalgia for old monarchies, pangs of sympathy for the poor and the miseries of the Third World, the taste for pleasure, the excitment of celebrity, all the shining and dangerous glitter which cover a very big emptiness."

The intellectuals have gone into overdrive. One novelist, Philippe Sollers, wrote in the Left Bank weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* that the Princess had played along with the plot of a low-grade novel "with a lousy text".



Flowers and messages of sympathy left near the site of the fatal crash in Paris

ALAN WELLER



Night and day, the queues have waited, uncomplaining, as Big Ben chimed the hours. Each midnight, an overpowering scent of lilies filled the air. There was something medieval about the scene: collective mass catharsis for pity and terror

A triumph for populism in trainers

The force of the people's will over Royal protocol may prove to be a watershed, writes **Valerie Grove**

The last time I found myself in streets thronged with people in silent procession was in Seville last August. We stood waiting for hours outside the cathedral, until eventually a painted doll, Seville's Gothic Virgin, borne aloft in a gilded carriage, hove into distant view. The patient, orderly gathering of all age groups, the reverence for this plaster saint was so utterly Latin, so very un-Anglo Saxon ... Nothing like this could happen in Britain. Or so I thought, until this week.

In the Mall, night and day, the queues have waited, uncomplaining, as Big Ben chimed the hours. Each midnight, an overpowering scent of lilies filled the air. Under dripping trees, candles flickered among the emblems: hearts and flowers, children's paintings, cuddly toys and messages: "They say God takes the ones He loves ..." There was something medieval about the scene: collective mass catharsis for pity and terror, for a tragedy of Aristotelian proportions.

The public display of sorrow will reach its apogee today at the funeral. It is without precedent. For whom else would so many journey so far, or queue for nine hours through a rainswept night?

I asked dozens of people why they had come. They felt drawn, they said; they felt "impelled". They had been overcome by a helpless inertia, they needed to express something. So they'd set off on the spur of the moment, wanting to be counted. "I kept looking at the TV reports and saying to myself 'Why are you looking at this? You should be there.' So I came."

"I'm not a royalist. I admired her, but I never realised that I loved her. I wanted to be part of it all. It's the most moving thing that's happened in my lifetime ..."

Several said: "Diana's all alone in there. There's nobody with her. We had to come." One elderly man from Wakefield said: "We knew about the long wait. What's a bit of discomfort, when Diana, poor girl, died in pain? There'll never be another like her in our lifetime. And it's taken her death to unite everyone in a common cause."

> "I'm not a royalist. I admired her, but never realised that I loved her"

Not quite everyone. "Has the whole nation gone bonkers with this mass hysteria?" harrumphed a listener to Radio 4's *PM* programme on Thursday. Two hundred rang the BBC on Sunday, outraged to have schedules disrupted: "Where is *Letter From America*?" But Radio 4 listeners are not the voice of the people.

That voice, on the evidence of its messages, is not hysterical, just awash with sentiment. "You are an angel ..." "The greatest lady of all time ..." "Not only have William and Harry lost you but the whole world, too ..." "Diana and Dodi, you have charmed the world, goodnight sweet angels, united for ever in death."

Mawkish, but heartfelt. Much of the greeting-card doggerel is so lacking in sense, it would be callous to quote it, but here is the eloquent final stanza of one poem:

"I will never
forget her
Neither will
many of you
I hope this
tragedy has taught
That horrible press
crew!

Anyone reading through the 43 books of condolence will find they reflect people's efforts to articulate what the Princess meant to them. Clearly, women identify most with her sufferings: "I can relate to her because I've just come through a marriage breakup," said one. "She wasn't without fault, but she admitted that." And another: "I have a daughter who went through depression. I don't think the Royal Family know how to cope with people who have problems."

Mandy Hale from Cheltenham remembered the street party for the Princess's wedding when she was nine. "I'm not an avid royal-watcher. When she said 'I want to be a queen of people's hearts', I thought 'Oh, don't be ridiculous', but she was right. Now she will never know how right she was. If only we could have told her."

Doris and John Mason had driven from Sherborne in Dorset. As teenage sweethearts, they had come to the Coronation together. Now retired, they came for the Princess. "We could have gone to our local church, but there's nothing like the atmosphere here." Their daughter is exactly Diana's age and looks uncannily like her, Doris said.

Sue Green drove through the night from Derbyshire. "I felt I had to come, because it all seemed unreal. Suddenly, late last night, I decided 'I'm going. I have to sign the book'. My 12-year-old son George, who's given me a message for Harry, said 'Mum, why are you out in the garden in the rain with a torch?' I was picking roses for Diana. They're called The Lady, which seems appropriate. It's a bit like a pilgrimage, embarrassing really. But I would have regretted it if I hadn't come.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. We won't see the like of it again. She was a young shy girl, uncomfortable about speaking in public at all, and yet at the end she could communicate spontaneously with anyone, and drew people like a magnet."

This was a crowd that did the nation credit. They were well-behaved, quiet, co-operative, grateful for the distinctly upmarket facilities provided. The well-upholstered lavatories had brass taps and light fittings: smart Harrods staff in green sweaters distributed tea and cake at the instigation of Mohamed Al Fayed.

> There'll never be another. And it's taken her death to unite everyone

But vox populi has had something to say and the Queen, visibly stung by its criticism, has now addressed the nation. The Union flag flies at half-mast. So the chainmail conventions of protocol have begun to unravel. A triumph for populism in trainers and anoraks.

The Queen made concessions in the face of criticism, largely ignorant and unimaginative, which harried the family out of its dignified private mourning at Balmoral. Until the announcement that the Queen would speak, television reporters from around the world could be heard goading people into remarking on the absence of the "remote" and "distant" Royals.

I heard a voice declaring: "Diana was surrounded by toffee-nosed, aristocratic English. In any equivalent circumstances, Diana would have come here without hesitation to be among the people." The speaker was the Rev Donald Reeves, charismatic rector of St James's, Piccadilly, who had been striding about in his cassock, handing out leaflets for his eve-of-funeral vigil and assuring everyone that even if the Church seemed to be as conspicuous by its absence as the Royals were, it would still put on a terrific funeral. "The C of E is very good at rituals. And Elton John's music is just as sacred as J. S. Bach's cantatas," he declared. "Diana was the people's Princess and we need the people's music as well."

Should the Royal Family get down off its stilts? Robert Lacey, whose forthcoming book on the Princess will be the first of dozens, wrote 20 years ago that the Queen became angry when expected to hug a child in a hospital: "She is not cuddly like her mother." But there is now a huggy generation of the Princess's contemporaries, who are scornful of protocol, unmindful of precedent, and — thanks to Oprah and others — who regard emotional soul-baring as the only way to deal with any misery. They overflow with helpless indignation and sympathy and need an outlet. "Why can't the Queen react?" they asked. The response "the Queen does not react" was incomprehensible to them.

The crowds in the Mall decided that the Royal Family was frozen in a stuffy, outdated etiquette, drawn up, as Sir Roy Strong points out, in the first decade of this century. And the Princess's funeral may well be a watershed, at least as important as the 1997 general election result, in having generated this attention to the popular will. It is "events, dear boy, events", as Macmillan said, that confound politicians' plans, and dictate history.

Events caused this Evita-style, essentially Latin American outpouring. Oh what a circus, oh what a show. Does it indicate a permanent change? Possibly, although a recurrence of similarly tragic dimensions is highly unlikely, given the uniqueness of the Princess's gift for capturing people's hearts.

She broke down barriers. She reached out to embrace the maimed and the leprous. She comforted the afflicted. And alas, she was destined for the 20th century's ultimate route to immortality, to be cut off in her prime.

Affection transcends ideology as Ulster republicans share in grief

Sinn Fein offers its sympathy while loyalists refuse to sing the national anthem. **Martin Fletcher** reports

ON THE streets of republican West Belfast, where the Royal Family is seen as the ultimate symbol of an oppressive British state, there is deep sorrow at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In the loyalist heartlands, where portraits of the Queen adorn every public building, people who have never breathed a word against the Royal Family are furious at its perceived indifference towards the Princess.

"It's a disgrace," said Edna Venus, who lives in the Shankill Road. "I was loyal to the Royal Family, but it's hurtful the way they've behaved. Everybody's angry."

The night before Mrs Venus was in a bar when the national anthem was played at closing time. Some customers sang, but others did not. When it finished everyone toasted Diana.

Another Shankill Road bar, the Rex, has not played the anthem all week, though it will observe a two-minute silence when it opens after the funeral. "If we played it, some people would stand and others wouldn't," said David Spence, the barman. "People here respected the Queen, but now it's a different ballgame."

"I loved the Royal Family, but she's not my Queen any more," said Patricia Hearst, a member of the Orange Order for 20 years. In a message in a condolence book this week she wrote "God Bless Our Queen" — referring to Diana.

Of a dozen passers-by interviewed around the Sinn Fein headquarters in the republican Andersonstown Road, not one expressed anything but sadness at the Princess's death — not out of affection for royalty, but because they saw her as a fellow victim, someone who cared for downtrodden people.

"The Royal Family are a bunch of wasters, but she's a heroine," said one old man as he left McGranaghan's Racing Shop. Another fervent republican said: "Royalty are robber barons. She was too close to ordinary people to be accepted by them."

Republican West Belfast will be glued to its televisions during the funeral, but it may be the only part of Britain where the one-minute silence is not widely observed.

"There's a sense of terrible tragedy. There's a genuine affection for her that transcends ideology," said Father Gerry Reynolds, a priest at the Clonard Monastery off the Falls Road. But he added: "The minute's silence is a British convention and they don't want to express their sorrow at Diana's passing by British conventions."

Diana's death has inspired other curious happenings in this divided province. Sinn Fein, for example, offered the British people its "deepest sympathies" — though a handful of the party's councillors in Londonderry objected when the city council voted to adjourn for the week.

Loyalists have called off a picket of a Catholic church in Ballymena and a parade in memory of a paramilitary man killed by the Army, this weekend. Several public institutions with neutral "no flag" policies have become butts of public anger for not flying the Union Jack at half-mast.

In Armagh on Thursday hundreds of Protestants and Catholics came together for a memorial service jointly led by Archbishops Robert Eames and Sean Brady, the heads of their respective churches in Ireland.

The public mourning has been as pronounced in Northern Ireland as anywhere else. About 6,000 people have signed the books of condolence at Belfast City Hall and banks of flowers have been left outside.

"I've never experienced anything like this," said a spokeswoman. Thousands more, Protestant and Catholic, have signed books of condolence at Belfast Cathedral.

CRISPIN RODWELL



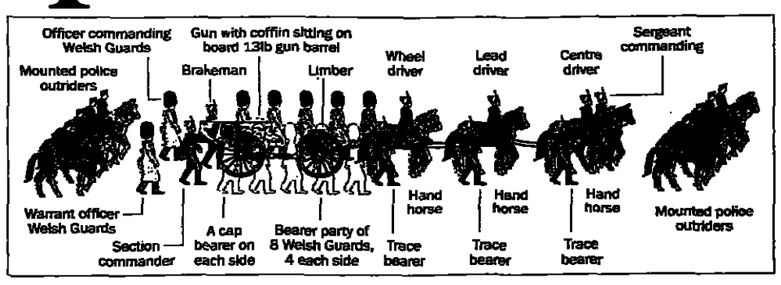
Loyalist, not royalist: "She's not my Queen any more," says Patricia Hearst

THE TIMES
GUIDE TO THE FUNERAL



DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : GUIDE TO THE FUNERAL

Millions to line route of procession



The coffin of Diana, Princess of Wales, will be removed from her apartment at Kensington Palace at 9.08am, borne by the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. The journey will take one hour and 47 minutes (*Dominic Kennedy writes*).

The coffin, draped in the Royal Standard with family wreaths on top, will be placed on a gun carriage pulled by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. Police expect between one and six million people, drawn to the spectacle from all over the world, to line the streets along the route.

There will be no band. Only the half-muffled tenor bell of Westminster Abbey, tolling every minute, will break the silence.

The Welsh Guards bearer party consists of eight pallbearers, two officers and two orderlies to carry their bearskins, which will be removed on entering the abbey.

The carriage will be drawn by three pairs of horses, with a single rider controlling each pair. A section sergeant will ride to the left of the leading pair. Four tracebearers on foot complete the King's Troop party.

Four mounted police outriders will be in front, and four more behind, the procession. There will be 7,000 police in uniform controlling the crowd, and plain-clothes security officers will mingle with the mourners. The cortège will leave Palace Avenue and turn left into Kensington High Street, entering Hyde Park at Queen's Gate, and passing the Albert Memorial, along Carriage Road on the southern edge of the park. It passes Apsley House on Hyde Park Corner, then moves beneath Wellington Arch into Constitution Hill and into the Mall to St James's Palace.

There, at 10.26am, with the journey two-thirds complete, the funeral procession will be swollen by hundreds of specially-invited mourners. Five representatives will join from each of the 110 charities of which Diana, Princess of Wales, was patron. They will be waiting at the junction of the Mall and Marlborough Road, and comprise charity workers and beneficiaries, the young, the old and the infirm.

They will continue along the final part of the journey to the abbey via Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, Parliament Street and the east side of Parliament Square.

When the cortège arrives at Broad Sanctuary at 10.55am, the charities' representatives will take seats at St Margaret's, Westminster, where the service will be relayed by video. The cortège will enter Westminster Abbey by the great west door.

THE PROCESSION

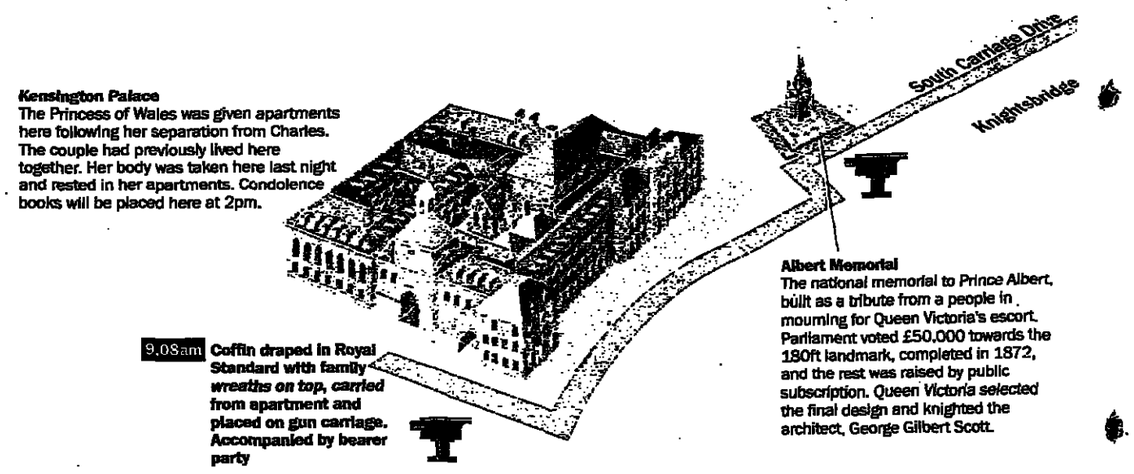
One of the largest crowds ever seen in central London is expected to watch the funeral procession of Diana, Princess of Wales, today. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, is ready to cope with up to six million people filling the streets, squares and Royal parks. Nearly 77,000 officers are on duty in the capital. Princess's coffin will take 1hr 47 minutes to travel on a gun carriage from her apartment in Kensington Palace to Westminster Abbey, where 1,900 mourners are attending the service.

THE JOURNEY ACROSS LONDON

The muffled bells of the abbey will toll to mark the end of the minute's silence, observed by the whole nation, as Princess's coffin leaves for her final journey. A hearse will carry her remains through London to the M1, travelling at a dignified speed to allow mourners lining the route to pay their last respects.

THE WAY HOME

The 90-minute journey ends in Great Brington. Crowds are expected to watch the hearse travelling along the M1 as the Spencer family return to Northamptonshire by train. The funeral will conclude with a private committal service on an island in an ornamental lake in the grounds of Althorp Park.



How best to reach and get around the crowded capital

UNDERGROUND

Westminster station will be closed for safety reasons all day. Extra trains on district and circle lines, running every four minutes between Gloucester Road and Tower Hill. To ease overcrowding, visitors are advised to walk as far as they can rather than use the Underground.

☐ **Best stations for procession to Westminster Abbey:** District/Circle lines — High Street Kensington, Gloucester Road, South Kensington, Sloane Square, Victoria, Green Park, St James' Park, Embankment. Northern/Bakerloo/Jubilee — Charing Cross, Piccadilly Line — Knightsbridge.

☐ **Best stations for the screens:** for Hyde Park (two screens), Hyde Park Corner (Piccadilly Line) is the nearest Underground station. For Regent's Park (one screen), Great Portland Street (Circle and Metropolitan lines) and Regent's Park (Bakerloo line). For Fulham Football Club (one screen), Putney Bridge (District line).

☐ **Best stations for procession from Westminster Abbey out of London:** Central Line — Marble Arch, Bond Street. Jubilee Line — Baker Street (also Circle, Metropolitan, Bakerloo lines). St John's Wood, Swiss Cottage, Finchley Road.Northern line — Brent Cross.

Special buses will replace Underground trains between Morden and Tooting Broadway on Northern Line. Northern line Charing Cross branch trains start and terminate at Kennington.

The latest information will be available on BBC Ceefax page 436 or ITV Teletext on 3, page 194.

TRAINS

Passengers using mainline stations at Waterloo, Charing Cross and Victoria are advised *to walk the mile to Westminster* Abbey. All mainline stations will be served by additional taxis, but they will face heavy congestion close to *the procession route.*

Standby trains are being laid on at most main railway stations to cope with heavy demand as visitors leave. Passengers should contact train companies for latest information. However, passengers are warned that evening long-distance services are already heavily booked.

CARS

Police and motoring organisations advise visitors not to drive into central London. Use outer London car parks (see below) and continue journey by public transport if possible.

EXTRA CAR PARKING

1,000 places at Battersea Park, southwest London: 50p charge. Served by buses to *Kensington and Westminster* sections of route. Park open at 7am, closed at 10.30pm.

1,000 spaces Royal Victoria Dock, East London, from 6am to 9pm. Free for users of Royal Victoria station on Docklands Light Railway.

NCP CAR PARKS:

Restricted access to the following car parks: Abingdon *Street, Westminster; Arlington* House, near St James's Palace; Park Lane underground; Portman Square, Gloucester Place. Other car *parks open as usual.*

THE ROADS

More than 60 roads along and surrounding the route to Westminster Abbey will be closed from 6am for most of the day. Other roads may be closed temporarily, and access will be heavily restricted to many roads used by the funeral cortège as it travels to the M1 after the service.

The Metropolitan Police have set up a free telephone line with details of road closures around the capital over the weekend: 0800 252242.

Latest information from AA Roadwatch, London: 0336 401122 (premium rate 39p per minute).

Roads already closed from M1, junction 15A in Northamptonshire (until 9am Monday): police stopping traffic on A43 from Towcester/Oxford. No access to M1 for short period after procession, until about 2pm. Ring-road traffic at Danes Camp Way. At Weedon roundabout, stopping traffic from town and traffic on A45 from Duston being diverted. No access to side roads across Tollgate Way and Bants Lane.

A428 — traffic stopped as required. Closed from East Haddon crossroads to Church Brampton turn. Diversions via East Haddon and Church Brompton.

Latest information from AA Roadwatch Northamptonshire: 0336 401123 (Premium rate 39p per minute)

Roads already closed leading to Great Brington: from Upper Harlestone, from A428 railway bridge, from East Haddon crossroads, from Whilton, from Little Brington, from Little Brington to Althorpe estate west gate, from Nobottle to Harleston.

(Until 6am Monday only residents to be allowed into the village where the Princess is laid to rest.)

CLOSED ROADS

The following roads in London will be closed from 6am for most of the day:

Abbey Orchard Street, Abingdon Street, Ameway Street, Barton Street, Birdcage Walk, Bridge Street, Broadway (between Caxton Street and Victoria Street), Broad Sanctuary, Chadwick Street, Cleveland Row, Constitution Hill, Cowley Street, Craig's Court, Dean Bradley Street, Dean Stanley Street, Dean Trench Street, Derby Gate, Gayfere Street, Great College Street, Great George Street, Great Peter Street, Great Scotland Yard, Great Smith Street, Horseguards Avenue (between Whitehall Court and Whitehall), Horse Guards Road, King Charles Street, Little College Street, Little George Street, Little Sanctuary, Little Smith Street, Little St James's Street, Little North Street, Marlborough Road, Marsham Street (between Horseferry Road and Great Peter Street), Matthew Parker Street, Medway Street, Millbank (between Great Peter Street and Abingdon Street), Monck Street, Pall Mall (between Waterloo Place and St James's Street), Old Palace Yard, Old Pye Street, Old Queen Street, Parliament Square, Parliament Street, Perkin's Rents, Queen's Gardens, Romney Street, Scotland Place, Smith Square, Spur Road, Stable Yard Road, St Anne's Street, St James's Street, St Margaret's Street, St Matthew Street, Storey's Gate, Strutton Ground, The Mall, Tothill Street (between Dean Farrer Street and Artillery Row), Whitehall, Whitehall Place (between Whitehall and Whitehall Court.

Where to sign tribute books

CONDOLENCE: The 43 books have been moved from St James's Palace to Kensington Palace, which will be open for the public to sign them from 2pm Saturday and then 24 hours a day until Monday, September 15. The completed books will be given to the Spencer family.

FOOD: Public advised to bring food and drink to last several hours (most shops and restaurants in Westminster area closed until Saturday afternoon), warm clothing and sun lotion, and to travel by public transport. More than 60 roads in the area will be closed.

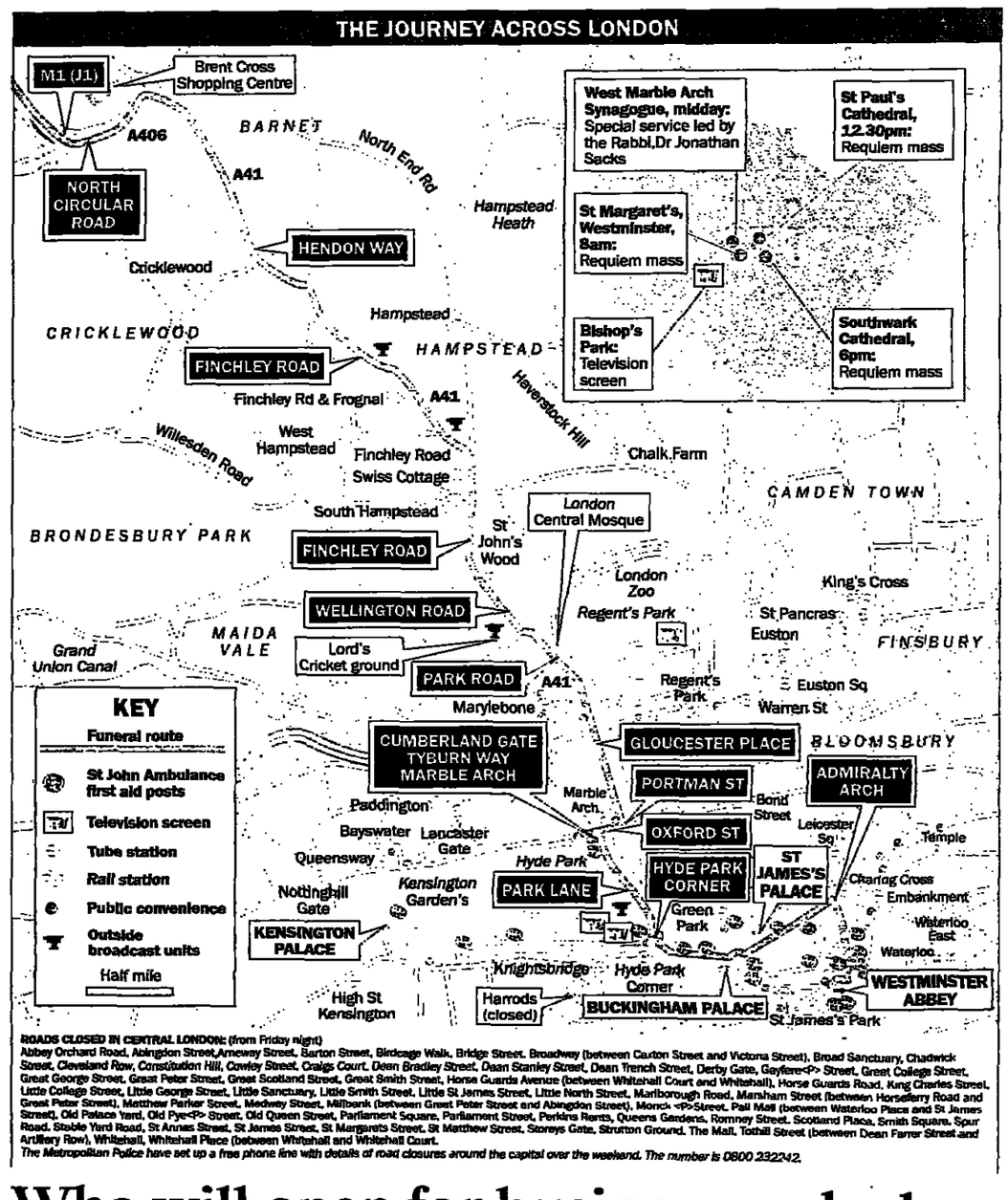
PARKS: Regent's Park closes at dusk. St James's Park, Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park open all Friday night, but camping not allowed. Camping in other parks on Friday night but the Royal Parks Police will not allow camping on Saturday. Big screens relaying funeral at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park, Cumberland Green in Regent's Park and Bishop's Park in Fulham. Food vendors in parks and park cafés open.

DISABLED ACCESS: 200 wheelchair spaces at Victoria Memorial Gardens by The Mall, and 200 in Hyde Park for viewing relay screens. Each wheelchair may be accompanied by two helpers. Disabled lavatories provided.

POLICE STATIONS: Belgravia police station, 202 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1; Charing Cross police station, Agar Street, WC2; Kensington police station, 72 Earls Court Road, W8.

HOSPITALS: St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1; Royal Brompton Hospital, Sydney Street, SW3.

TEMPORARY PUBLIC LAVATORIES, open to midnight: with wheelchair access: Matthew Parker St, SW1; Tothill St, SW1; Dean Stanley St, SW1; Great Peter St, SW1; Whitehall Place, SW1; Carlton House Terrace, SW1; no wheelchair access: King Charles St, SW1.



ROADS CLOSED IN CENTRAL LONDON: (from Friday night)
Abbey Orchard Road, Abingdon Street,Ameway Street, Barton Street, Birdcage Walk, Bridge Street, Broadway (between Caxton Street and Victoria Street), Broad Sanctuary, Chadwick Street, Cleveland Row, Constitution Hill, Cowley Street, Craigs Court, Dean Bradley Street, Dean Stanley Street, Dean Trench Street, Derby Gate, Gayfere<P> Street, Great College Street, Great George Street, Great Peter Street, Great Scotland Street, Great Smith Street, Horse Guards Avenue (between Whitehall Court and Whitehall), Horse Guards Road, King Charles Street, Little College Street, Little George Street, Little Sanctuary, Little Smith Street, Little St James Street, Little North Street, Marlborough Road, Marsham Street (between Horseferry Road and Great Peter Street), Matthew Parker Street, Medway Street, Millbank (between Great Peter Street and Abingdon Street), Monck <P>Street, Pall Mall (between Waterloo Place and St James Street), Old Palace Yard, Old Pye<P> Street, Old Queen Street, Parliament Square, Parliament Street, Perkins Rents, Queens Gardens, Romney Street, Scotland Place, Smith Square, Spur Road, Stable Yard Road, St Annes Street, St James Street, St Margarets Street, St Matthew Street, Storeys Gate, Strutton Ground, The Mall, Tothill Street (between Dean Farrer Street and Artillery Row), Whitehall, Whitehall Place (between Whitehall and Whitehall Court.
The Metropolitan Police have set up a free phone line with details of road closures around the capital over the weekend. The number is 0800 252242.

Who will open for business and when

SUPERMARKETS

Sainsbury, Safeway, Asda, Tesco, Somerfield, Morrisons, Presto and Waitrose will all be closed until 2pm on Saturday. Co-op will be closed until 1pm.

POST OFFICES

There will be no collections or deliveries on Saturday. Main post offices that are usually open all day will be closed until 2pm. Post offices that usually close at 12pm will close at 10.30am.

SHOPS

Harrods will be closed all day Saturday; Selfridges, closed until 1pm; Woolworths (2pm); *Marks & Spencers (2pm); Burton* Group, including Top Shop, Principles, Debenhams (2pm); John Lewis (2pm); Dixons (2pm); Waterstones, branches closed until 2pm; Going Places, closed all weekend; Cancer Research Campaign, shops closed all day.

McDonald's fast-food restaurants will be closed until 2pm on Saturday.

THEATRES

National Theatre, Saturday matinee performances cancelled; Globe Theatre, Saturday matinee cancelled; National Shakespeare Company, Saturday matinees cancelled; *Royal Shakespeare* Company, Saturday matinees cancelled.

BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES

Barclays, closed all day Saturday; Alliance and Leicester, open 10am-2pm; Lloyds, closed but cashpoints working; Midland, closed but cashpoints working; First Direct, operational; Bank of Scotland, closed; NatWest, closed, cashpoints open; Co-op Bank, closed; Abbey National, automated teller service only; Yorkshire Bank, interactive voice banking only; Halifax, bank branches closed, property services open at 2pm; Woolwich, closed all day; Nationwide, closed all day; Birmingham Midshire, closed all day; Bradford and Bingley, open until 10.30am.

MUSEUMS AND TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Buckingham Palace will be closed on Saturday but will open for tours from 9am on Sunday. Westminster Abbey will be closed until Tuesday.

Closed until 2pm on Saturday: Royal Academy; Tower of London; Hampton Court Palace; National History Museum; National Maritime Museum; Old Royal Observatory; *British Museum;* Museum of Mankind; Victoria and Albert Museum; Shakespeare Tours, Stratford upon Avon.

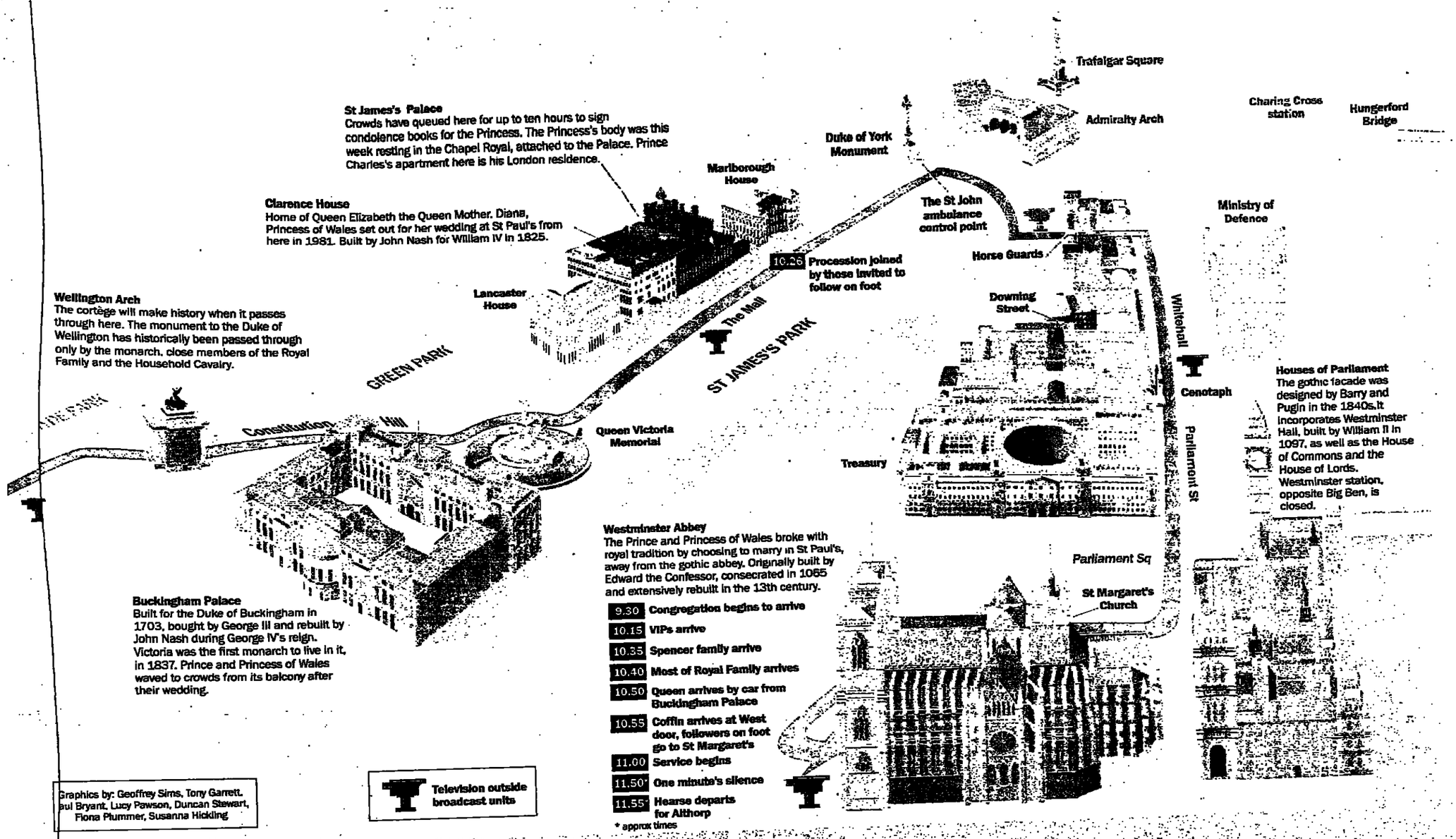
Closed until 1pm on Saturday: Imperial War Museum; Cabinet War Rooms.

Harewood House, near Leeds, will open on Saturday free of charge as a place of *quiet consolation. All National* Trust buildings will be closed until 3pm, Saturday. English Heritage buildings will be closed all day.

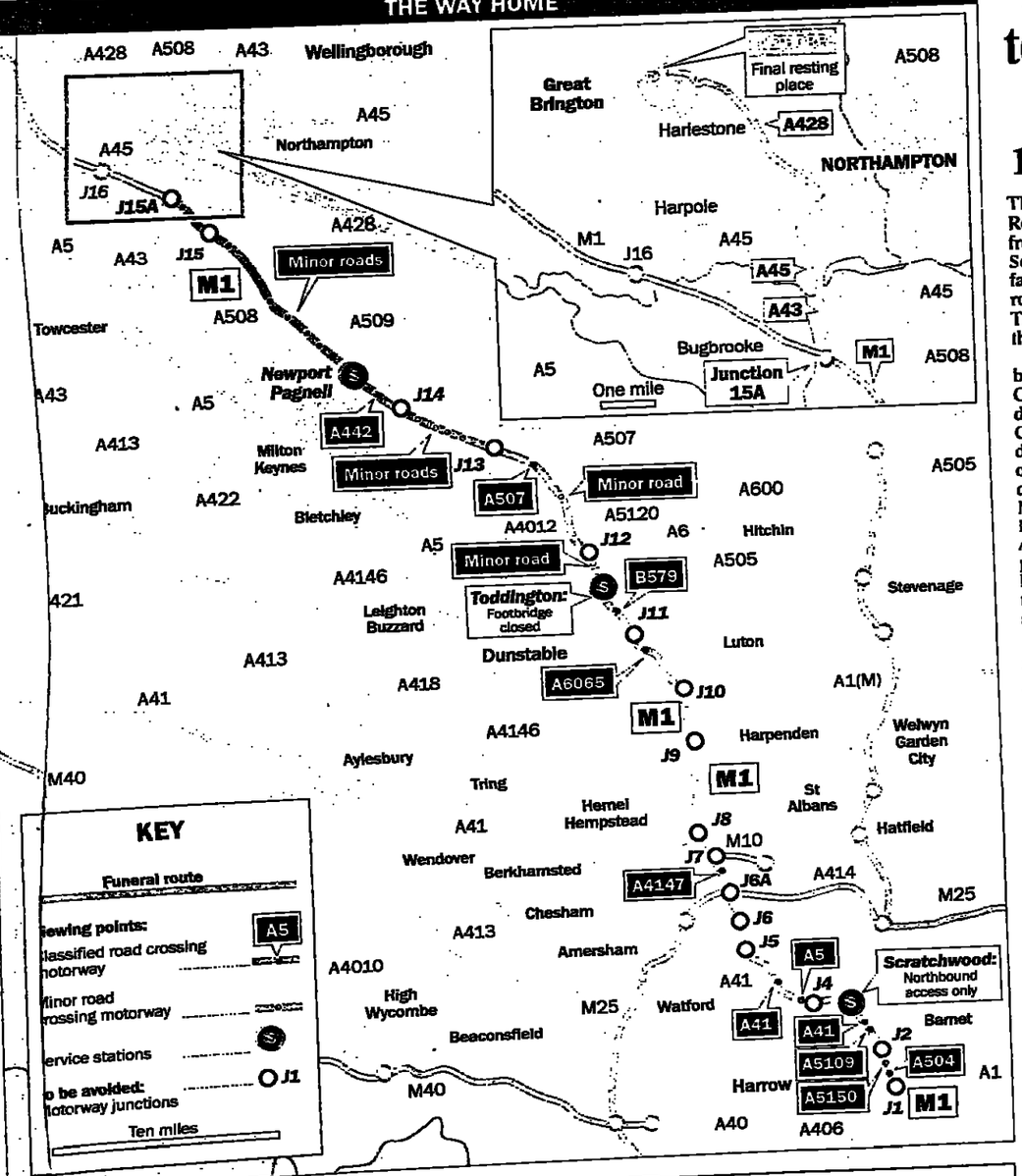
CINEMAS

Warner, UCI, Showcase, Virgin, Odeon, and ABC cinemas will all be closed until 3pm on Saturday.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : GUIDE TO THE FUNERAL



THE WAY HOME



Families to lead the world in mourning

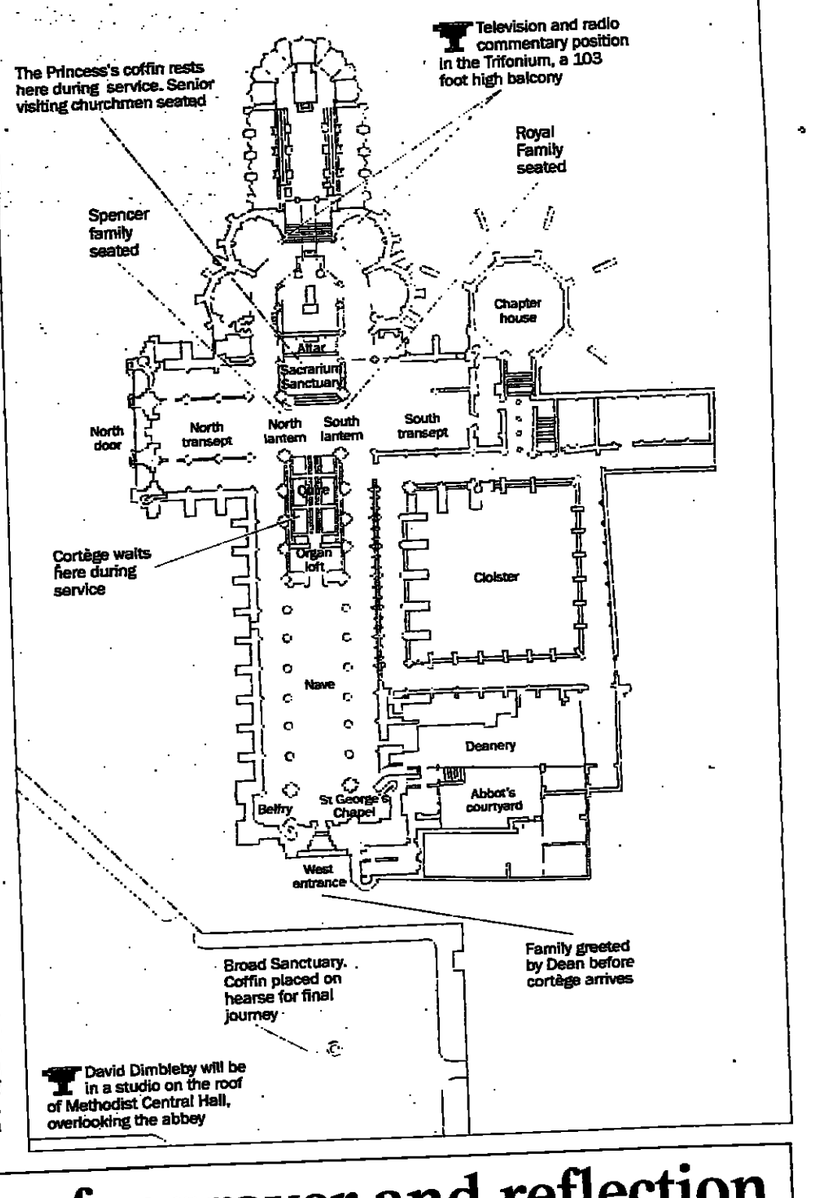
THE Queen and immediate Royal Family will sit at the front of the Abbey in the South Lantern. The Spencer family will be in the front rows of the North Lantern. The families will enter through the Great West Door.

Among the mourners will be the First Lady, Hillary Clinton, the French President's wife, Bernadette Chirac, Queen Noor of Jordan, former King Constantine of Greece, the Egyptian president's wife, Suzanne Mubarak, and Princess Margarit of The Netherlands. All surviving former British prime ministers will be joined by serving party leaders and their wives, the Speaker and senior ministers.

The opera singer Luciano Pavarotti will attend, as will Donatello and Santo Versace, whose designer brother Gianni's funeral was attended by Diana, Princess of Wales, in July. Friends include Lucia Flecha de Lima, wife of the Brazilian ambassador to Washington. The Harrods owner, Mohammed Al Fayed, who lost his son Dodi in the car crash that killed the Princess of Wales, will be there.

The cortège will enter through the Great West Door at 10.55am. During the service, the coffin will be in the Sacrarium, which will seat visiting clergy including Cardinal Basil Hume, the Moderator of the Free Churches, Dr Kathleen Richardson, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Sandy McDonald. The service will last between 45 minutes and an hour.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY



TV coverage starts at dawn

BBC

6am BBC1: *The People Gather.* National and regional news and weather with reports from the scenes of the funeral procession.

8.30am: BBC2: *Diana, a Newsound special.* The children's news bulletin.

8.30am-6pm: BBC1: *Diana, The Nation's Farewell*, introduced by David Dimbleby.

9am: BBC1 and BBC2 combine coverage with signed broadcasting for the deaf on BBC2.

11.45m: All channels will observe a minute's silence as the cortège leaves the abbey. Coverage continues on BBC until 12.30pm, and on BBC1 into the afternoon with pictures of the journey to Althorp.

6pm: News, regional news and weather. Further BBC news bulletins are at 9.35m and 12.25pm.

10pm: BBC1: *Farewell to the People Princess*, an hour-long reprise.

BBC RADIO

6-9m: Radio 4 and Radio 5 Live coverage in *Today* and *The Breakfast Programme.*

9am-12.30pm: Radio 4 and Radio 5 Live begin combined coverage presented by James Naughtie and Paul Reynolds. Radio 1, Radio 2 and Radio 3 will cover the service.

12.30pm: Radio 5 Live's *The Final Journey*, covering the journey to Althorp. Radio 1, Radio 2 and Radio 3 will broadcast suitable music and Radio 4 will carry special editions of *PM* and *The Six O'Clock News*. Radio Cymru will carry coverage in Welsh, and BBC Wales will provide a 20-minute *Newyddion* special at 7pm on S4C. Local radio stations and the BBC World Service will also broadcast the service.

ITV

6am: GMTV, hosted by Eamonn Holmes and Fiona Phillips, reporting live from the funeral locations.

8.30am: Trevor McDonald introduces ITN's coverage, which will continue until about 4pm. More than 40 senior journalists will take part.

6pm: 45-minute ITN news bulletin.

9pm: Trevor McDonald presents *Farewell to a Princess*, an hour-long round-up of the day's events.

No advertisements will be carried during ITV's funeral coverage.

Sky News

6am: *Sunrise* reports on the crowds.

9.30am: live coverage of the procession and funeral presented by Martin Stanford and Alastair Bruce.

6.30pm: *Diana — The Week the World Wept*, on the week since the Princess's death.

8pm *Diana, the Final Farewell*, a round-up of the day's events.

No advertisements will be carried during Sky News's coverage of the funeral.

Television, page 41

A chance for prayer and reflection

SATURDAY

Belfast City Hall: 9am, Book of Condolence open (also open Sun). Blackburn Cathedral: 9.30am service. Clifton Cathedral, Bristol: 1.10pm service. Bury St Edmunds Cathedral: 6.30pm service. Llandaff Cathedral: 11am service, funeral procession and service screened outside. Carlisle Cathedral: 8am Requiem service; 11am thanksgiving service; noon and 1pm, prayers. Chester Cathedral: noon vigil. Coventry Cathedral: 9am service; 5pm Choral Evensong. Derby Cathedral: 2.30pm service.

Edinburgh: open-air service in Princes Street; Ross open-air theatre screens pictures from funeral service and procession. Exeter Cathedral: 3pm service. St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow: 1pm Requiem Mass. Hereford Cathedral: 9am ecumenical service. Lichfield Cathedral: 7.30pm service. Liverpool Parish Church: 9.30am Requiem service attended by Lord Mayor. Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool: 6.30pm Mass.

London: 8am Requiem Mass, St Margaret's, Westminster; 10am Requiem Mass, Our Lady of Victory, Kensington; 12.30pm Requiem Mass, St. Paul's Cathedral; 6pm Requiem Mass, Southwark Cathedral. Midday special service led by the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, Western Marble Arch Synagogue.

Londonderry: 10.55am, SDLP Mayor and DUP Deputy Mayor lay a wreath at Cenotaph.

Manchester: 5.50pm vigil at Castlefield Basin.

Newcastle upon Tyne: 2pm service for Northumbria Deaf Mission and the Deaf Church, at cathedral. Oxford: 6pm service, Christ Church Cathedral.

Reading: 9.30am service, St Mary's Church.

Salisbury Cathedral: 7.30pm reflection.

Sevenoaks: 9am vigil, St Mary Kippington, where Princess was confirmed. Taunton: 6pm civic service, St Mary Magdalene.

Wells Cathedral: 5.15pm Requiem Mass.

Winchester Cathedral: 10am funeral procession and service screened. Windsor: 5.15pm, sung Requiem at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, broadcast into precincts.

■ Synagogues will hold special services of tribute to Princess.

■ Most London churches open all day for prayer and reflection.

SUNDAY

Bangor Cathedral: 3.15pm service. Belfast: 11am service, St Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral. Birmingham: noon multi-denominational service, Victoria Square. Bournemouth: noon open-air thanksgiving, war memorial. Bradford Cathedral: 10.15am service. Bristol: 11am Requiem Mass, Clifton Cathedral.

Caernarfon Castle: 3.15pm service. Chester Cathedral: 10am Requiem and Service of Thanksgiving. Chichester Cathedral: 3.30pm service.

Dublin: 11.15am service to be attended by President Robinson and Taoiseach.

Durham Cathedral: 3.30pm service, relayed to Palace Green.

Gloucester Cathedral: 3pm service.

Liverpool, Anglican Cathedral: 3pm ecumenical service. Liverpool, Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King: 5pm, BBC1's *Songs of Praise.*

Newcastle Cathedral: 9.30am, Sung Eucharist, ecumenical service. Salisbury Cathedral: 10am Eucharist of Requiem. York Minister: 4pm service.

September 13: Manchester Cathedral, memorial service. Sep 14: Glasgow: ecumenical open-air service, George Square.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : GUIDE TO THE FUNERAL

ORDER OF SERVICE

During the Procession of the Cortège from Kensington Palace, the Tenor Bell is tolled every minute.

The service is sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey, conducted by Martin Neary, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Martin Baker, Sub-Organist of Westminster Abbey.

Music before the service, played by Stephen Le Prevost, Assistant Organist, Westminster Abbey:

Second Movement (Grave) Organ Sonata, no.2
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)

Prelude on the hymn tune 'Eventide'
Hubert Parry (1848-1918)

Adagio in E
Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

Prelude on the hymn tune Rhosymedre
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Choral Prelude: Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV639
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Elegy — *George Thalben-Ball (1896-1988)*

Martin Baker plays:
Fantasia in C minor BWV537 — *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Adagio in G minor — *Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni (1671-1751)*

Slow movement, from the Ninth Symphony ('From the New World') — *Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)*

Canon — *Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

Nimrod, Variation 9 arranged from Variations on an original theme (Enigma) Op.36
Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Prelude — *William Harris (1883-1973)*

The members of the Spencer family are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

All stand as they are conducted to places in the North Lantern, and then sit.

All stand as the Procession of Visiting Clergy moves to places in the Sacrarium, and then sit.

Members of the Royal Family are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and are conducted to St George's Chapel.

All stand as they are conducted to places in the South Lantern, and then sit.

Her Majesty The Queen,
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother,
and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh, are received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

All stand as Their Majesties and His Royal Highness are conducted to their places in the South Lantern.

All remain standing as the Cortège enters the Great West Door.

The Collegiate Body of St Peter in Westminster moves into place in the Nave.

All sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

God Save our gracious Queen
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God Save the Queen

Thesaurus Musicus (c1743)
arranged by Gordon Jacob (1895 – 1984)

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Cortège, preceded by the Collegiate Body, moves to the Quire and Sacrarium, during which the Choir sings.

THE SENTENCES

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.
(St John 11: 25,26)

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.
(Job 19: 25-27)

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.
(1 Timothy 6: 7; Job 1: 21)
William Croft (1678-1727) Organist of Westminster Abbey (1708-27)

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts: shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen
(Book of Common Prayer)
Henry Purcell (1659-95) Organist of Westminster Abbey 1679-95.

I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit: for they rest from their labours.
Revelation 14: 13. William Croft.

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster, says

THE BIDDING

We are gathered here in Westminster Abbey to give thanks for the life of Diana, Princess of Wales; to commend her soul to almighty God, and to seek his comfort for all who mourn. We particularly pray for God's restoring peace and loving presence with her children, the Princes William and Harry, and for all her family.
In her life, Diana profoundly influenced this nation and the world. Although a princess, she was someone for whom, from afar, we dared to feel affection, and by whom we were all intrigued. She kept company with kings and queens, with princes and presidents, but we especially remember her humane concerns and how she met individuals and made them feel significant. In her death she commands the sympathy of millions.
Whatever our beliefs and faith, let us with thanksgiving remember her life and enjoyment of it; let us re-dedicate to God the work of those many charities that she supported; let us commit ourselves anew to caring for others; and let us offer to him and for his service our own mortality and vulnerability.

All remain standing to sing

THE HYMN

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace

Thaxted. — *Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918)*
Gustav Holst (1874-1934).

All sit.

Lady Sarah McCorquodale reads:

If I should die and leave you here awhile,
Be not like others, sore undone, who keep
Long vigils by the silent dust, and weep.
For my sake – turn again to life and smile,
Nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do
Something to comfort other hearts than thine.
Complete those dear unfinished tasks of mine
And I, perchance, may therein comfort you.

All remain seated.

The BBC Singers, together with Lynne Dawson, soprano, sing:

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda quando coeli movendi sunt, et terra: dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.
Tremens factus sum ego et timeo, dum discussio venerit, atque ventura ira.
Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, dies magna et amara valde.
Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

(Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death in that dread day when the heavens and the earth shall be shaken, and you will come to judge the world by fire. I tremble in awe of the judgement and the coming wrath. Day of wrath, day of calamity and woe, great and exceeding bitter day. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.)
Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) from The Requiem.

All remain seated.

Lady Jane Fellowes reads:

Time is too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice,
but for those who love, time is eternity.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

The King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me
and on his shoulder gently laid
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight:
thy unction grace bestoweth:
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.
Dominus regit me J B Dykes (1823 - 76)

H W Baker (1821 - 77) Psalm 23

The Right Honourable Tony Blair, MP, Prime Minister, reads:

1 CORINTHIANS 13

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.
Love suffereth long, and is kind: love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.
When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

All remain seated.

Elton John sings:

CANDLE IN THE WIND

Goodbye England's rose;
may you ever grow in our hearts.
You were the grace that placed itself
where lives were torn apart.
You called out to our country,
and you whispered to those in pain.
Now you belong to heaven,
and the stars spell out your name.

And it seems to me you lived your life
like a candle in the wind:
never fading with the sunset
when the rain set in.
And your footsteps will always fall here,
along England's greenest hills;
your candles burned out long before
your legend ever will.

Loveliness we've lost;
these empty days without your smile.
This torch we'll always carry
for our nation's golden child.
And even though we try,
the truth brings us to tears;
all our words cannot express
the joy you brought us through the years.

Goodbye England's rose,
from a country lost without your soul,
who'll miss the wings of your compassion
more than you'll ever know.
© 1973 – 1997 DJM Ltd *Bernie Taupin (b 1950) Elton John (b 1947)*

All remain seated for

THE TRIBUTE

by The Earl Spencer.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred let me bring your love,
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

O Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul!

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring hope,
where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy:

O Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul!

Make me a channel of your peace:
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that were born to eternal life.

O Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul!

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred let me bring your love,
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Sebastian Temple.

St Francis of Assisi translated by Sebastian Temple.

All sit.

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable
Dr George Carey,
Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, leads

THE PRAYERS

For Diana, Princess of Wales

We give thanks to God for Diana, Princess of Wales: for her sense of joy and for the way she gave so much to so many people.
Lord, we thank you for Diana, whose life touched us all and for all those memories of her that we treasure. We give thanks for those qualities and strengths that endeared her to us: for her vulnerability; for her radiant and vibrant personality; for her ability to communicate warmth and compassion; for her ringing laugh; and above all for her readiness to identify with those less fortunate in our nation and the world.
Lord of the loving: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For her family

We pray for those most closely affected by her death: *for Prince William and Prince Harry who mourn the* passing of their dearly loved mother; for her family, especially for her mother, her brother and her sisters.
Lord we thank you for the precious gift of family life, for all human relationships and for the strength we draw from one another. Have compassion on those for whom this parting brings particular pain and the deepest sense of loss. Casting their cares on you, may they know the gentleness of your presence and the consolation of your love.
Lord of the bereaved: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For the Royal Family

We pray for the members of the Royal Family, for wisdom and discernment as they discharge their responsibilities in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the world.
Lord, we commend to you Elizabeth our Queen, the members of the Royal Family and all who exercise power and authority in our nation. Enrich them with your grace, that we may be governed with wisdom and godliness: so that in love for you and service to each other we may each bring our gifts to serve the common good.
Lord of the nations: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For all who mourn

Diana was not alone in losing her young life tragically. We remember too her friend, Dodi al-Fayed and his family; Henri Paul, and all for whom today's service rekindles memories of grief untimely borne.
Lord, in certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, we commend to you all who have lost loved ones in tragic circumstances. Give them comfort; renew their faith and strengthen them in the weeks and months ahead.
Lord of the broken-hearted: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For the Princess's life and work

The Princess will be especially missed by the many charities with which she identified herself. We recall those precious images: the affectionate cuddle of children in hospital; that touch of the young man dying of Aids; her compassion for those maimed through the evil of land mines – and many more.
Lord we pray for all who are weak, poor and powerless in this country and throughout the world; the sick, among them Trevor Rees-Jones; the maimed and all whose lives are damaged. We thank you for the way that Diana became a beacon of hope and a source of strength for so many. We commend to you all those charities that she supported.
Strengthen the resolve of those who work for them tocontinue the good work begun with her.
Lord of the suffering: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

For ourselves

'And now abide faith, hope, love, these three: but the reatest of these is love.'
As we reflect on the Princess's compassion for oters, we pray that we too may be inspired to serve as sh served.
Lord we thank you for Diana's commitment tothers.
Give us the same compassion and commitment. Giveis a *steadfast heart, which no unworthy thought can drag own;* an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear ut: an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose can tempt side.
Grant us, O Lord, understanding to know you, diligere to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that ay bring us to your eternal kingdom.
Lord of the compassionate: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

All remain seated.

The Choristers sing:

I would be true, for there are those that trust me
I would be pure, for there are those that care.
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer.
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless.
I would be giving, and forget the gift,
I would be humble, for I know my weakness,
I would look up, laugh, love and live.

Air from County Derry in G Petrie: The Ancient Music of Ireland (185:
Howard Arkld Walter.

The Archbishop continues:

Therefore, confident in the love and mercy of Go holding a living faith in Gods mighty resurrectin power, we, the congregation here, those in the reets outside and the millions around the world, join one aother and the hosts of heaven, as we say together, in whater language we may choose, the prayer which Jesus taut us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us fro evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Archbishop says:

THE BLESSING

The God of peace who brought again from the dea our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, mak you perfect in every good work to do his will: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the oly Spirit, be with you and all whom you love, this day an for evermore. AMEN.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside:
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.
Cwm Rhondda. John Hughes (1873-1932)

W Williams (1717-91) translated by P Williams (1727-96)nd others.

Standing before the Catafalque the Dean says:

THE COMMENDATION

Let us commend our sister Diana to the mercy of God,ur Maker and Redeemer.

Diana, our companion in faith and sister in Chri, we entrust you to God.
Go forth from this world in the love of the Father, whocreated you;
In the mercy of Jesus Christ, who died for you;
In the power of the Holy Spirit, who strengthens you.
At one with all the faithful, living and departed,
may you rest in peace and rise in glory,
where grief and misery are banished
and light and joy evermore abide. AMEN.

All remain standing as the Cortège leaves the church, during which the Choir sings:

Alleluia. May flights of angels sing thee to thy rst.
Remember me O Lord, when you come into yor kingdom.
Give rest O Lord to your handmaid, who has filen asleep.
The choir of saints have found the well-spring f life, and door of paradise.
Life: a shadow and a dream.
Weeping at the grave creates the song:
Alleluia. Come, enjoy rewards and crowns I hve prepared for you.
John Tavener (b 1944)

extracts from William Shakespeare: Halet and the Orthodox Funral Service.

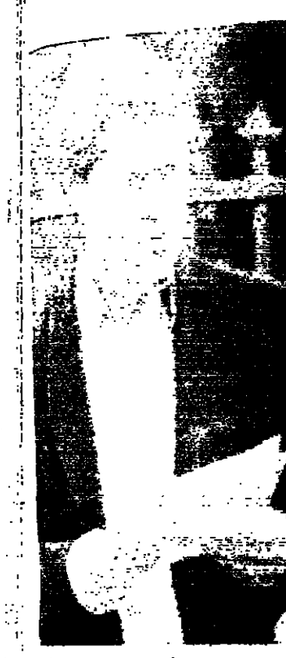
At the west end of the church the Cortège halts fr the minutes silence, observed by the Nation.

The half-muffled bells of the Abbey church are rung.

All remain standing as the Processions move to the wt end of the church.

Music after the service:

Prelude in C minor BWV 546. — *Johann Sebalan Bach*
Maestoso, from Symphonie no.3. — *Camille Saint-Saëns (35-1921)*



DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

Seven long days of tragedy when Britain lost and found its heart


JOHN STILWELL

By Andrew Pierce and Charles Bremner

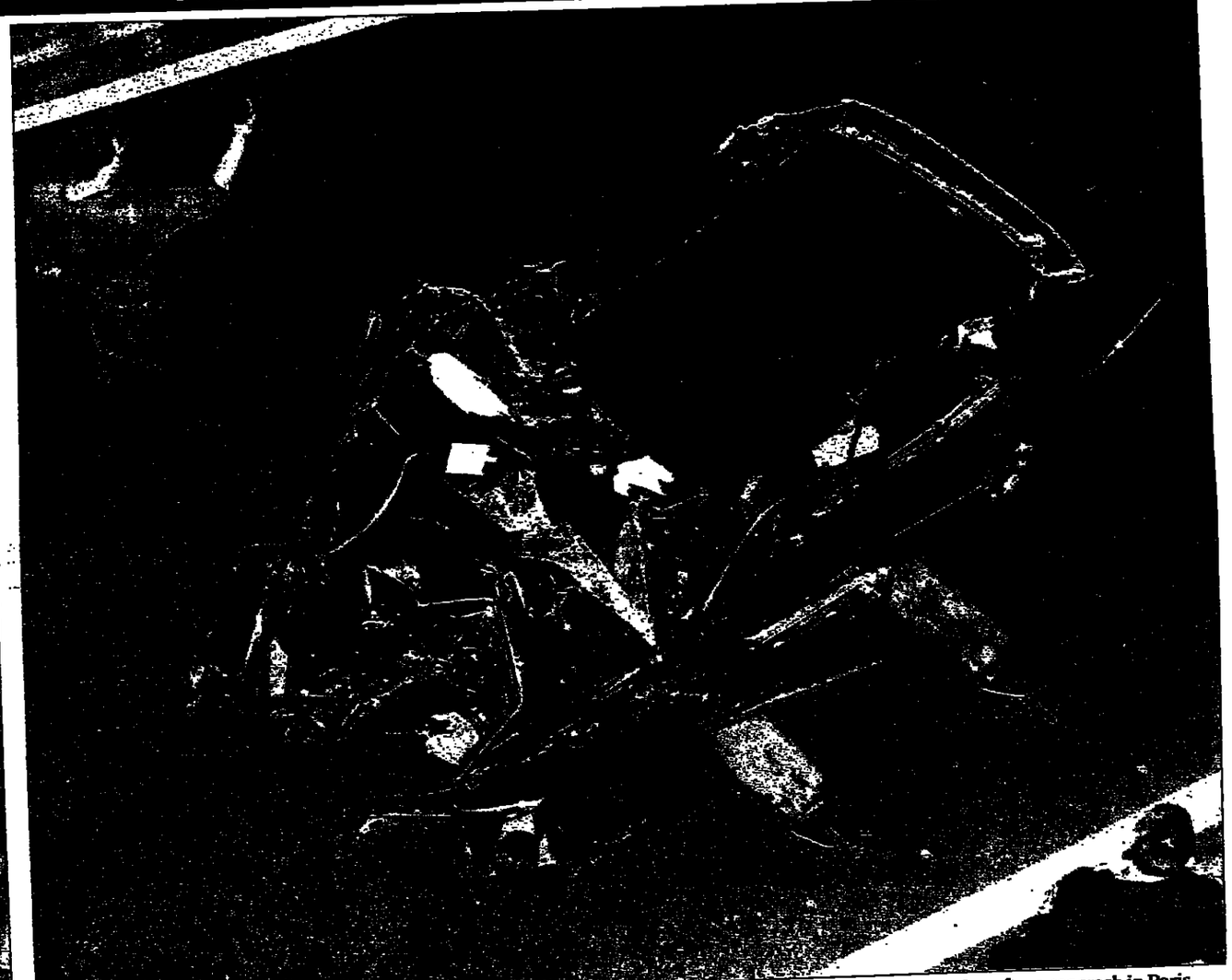
From a sunshine holiday to a race into the darkness, then the shocking news that left a nation struggling to cope with the death of a heroine

SUNDAY





Public expressions: Earl Spencer and Tony Blair both spoke from the heart


CHARLES PLATIAU



The Prince of Wales leaving Crathie Church, Balmoral, on Sunday morning with Princes William and Harry. He had earlier broken the news that their mother had died in the early hours of the morning after a car crash in Paris

When Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed had shopped for clothes in the Champs Elysées in the warm Saturday afternoon sunshine, they were concerned only to avoid the prying lenses of the paparazzi.

The couple had cut short their holiday in Sardinia because of yet another clash with the local ratpack. They decided instead to spend a quiet night in Paris before flying back to Britain. The Princess was looking forward to an important appointment in the coming week: she was to take Prince William and Prince Harry back to school.

The routine run-in with the photographers in Sardinia was the trigger for a sequence of events which would lead to tragedy in a Paris underpass, send shock waves around the world and unleash the biggest outpouring of national grief that Britain has experienced.

They were met at Paris's Le Bourget airport at 3pm by Henri Paul, 41, the deputy head of security at the Ritz. The balding Breton bachelor, who enjoyed the fast life, was to have a decisive hand in the death of the Princess.

The couple left their baggage in a £6,000-a-night suite, where they freshened up. Outside, the paparazzi were on their trail. The couple cut short the shopping trip in the arcades of the Champs Elysées and the Princess returned to the hotel where she made a series of telephone calls home.

The couple, who had been under the protective wing of M Paul many times before, ventured out at about 8.45pm. They had planned to dine at Chez Benoit, a chic restaurant in the Rue Saint Martin, but cancelled their plans under pressure from the paparazzi and returned to the Ritz at 10pm for dinner. The Princess, looking relaxed in white trousers and black blazer, had bags full of shopping.

They ate dinner in the hotel's Michelin two-star Swordfish restaurant: the Princess choosing sole, Mr Fayed turbot. He presented the Princess with a £130,000 friendship ring. While they ate, the hotel security staff, alarmed at the growing crowd outside the hotel's marbled entrance, plotted the great escape to their night's lodgings, a Fayed flat in the 16th *arrondissement*.

For such seasoned paparazzi, the tactic was predictable: they opted to make use of a decoy car. Behind the wheel was the regular Fayed driver, who was well known to the photographers. M Paul, a former French Air Force pilot, was chosen to drive the car carrying the Princess and Mr Fayed.

The plan was flawed. M Paul's usual shift had ended. He had not expected to be required for duty until 2.30pm the next day, when the couple were to have flown to Britain.

He relaxed after a day's work, spending an hour at Willi's, his favourite bar, where he drank whisky. He then drank a bottle of wine with his meal and left to go to sleep at his modest fourth-floor flat, five minutes' walk from the Ritz in the Place Vendome.

Then his mobile telephone rang. It was a summons to return to the Ritz.

There should have been only one response. By now M Paul was at least three times over the French drink-drive limit. But he stayed silent, and so set in train the final act in the life of the world's most-photographed woman. It was a lapse of professionalism which was all the more remarkable since it was clear that M Paul was unfit to drive. Employees of the hotel have since claimed that they could tell by looking at him that "he was sloshed".

He was certainly belligerent. Before he clambered into the hotel's black Mercedes 220SL, he threw down an irresistible challenge to the photographers waiting to catch a glimpse of the Princess and Mr Fayed. "Catch me if you can," he taunted. Ritz staff insisted later, however, that the photographers were never close enough to the Mercedes to hear what the driver was saying to them.

The couple left the hotel by a rear entrance at 15 minutes past midnight. The decoy car roared out of the Ritz car park at the front, while another Mercedes pulled off in a different direction. Few of the photographers were fooled. The chase was on.

The Mercedes sped away at speeds of more than 80mph, and possibly as high as 125mph, along the Right Bank of the Seine, with the paparazzi in hot pursuit. At 25 minutes past midnight, the car hurtled into the narrow, curving underpass at the Place de l'Alma. The speed limit was 30mph: the Princess's car was doing four times that.

The details of the final few seconds in the dimly lit tunnel remain hazy. The Al Fayed camp claimed, in a memorable phrase, that the pursuing pack swarmed round the car like Apache Indians surrounding a stagecoach, and blinded the driver with camera lights. The photographers said that they were at least 200 yards behind. An eyewitness came forward to the police with evidence which appeared to confirm the early reports that a motorcyclist had caused the limousine to swerve and crash.


PETER NICHOLLS

The coffin bearing the Princess's body arriving at RAF Northolt after its journey from Paris in the evening

François Levi, who was driving immediately in front of the Mercedes, said that in his rear-view mirror, he saw the car in the middle of the tunnel with the motorcycle pulling ahead and swerving directly in front of it.

M Levi, a former harbour pilot, described the scene: "As the motorcycle swerved, and before the car lost control, there was a flash of light, but then I was out of the tunnel and heard, but did not see, the impact," he said. "I immediately pulled my car over into the kerb but my wife said: 'Let's get out of here: It's a terrorist attack.'"

Back in the tunnel, the two-tonne Mercedes went out of control, slewed into the 13th concrete pillar with a bang like an explosion, flipped over several times, and came to a halt against the wall. The force of the impact rammed the 2.8-litre engine into the main body of the car and killed M Paul instantly. He slumped against the horn, which blared for two minutes.

Trevor Rees-Jones, the bodyguard, was critically injured in the front seat. He is the only person who can tell at first hand the truth about how the Princess was driven to her death, but doctors fear that he might not speak again.

From the rear seat, Mr Fayed was hurled into the front. The impact broke his neck and he died instantly. The Princess was thrown to the floor of the car, where she lay trapped.



Dodi Fayed: died in the car with the Princess

First on the scene were the pursuing photographers. But it was not clear to them at first what had happened, nor their part in the tragedy. They said they heard a bang so loud they thought that the Princess was the victim of an assassination attempt.

All professional news photographers, some could not resist their impulse to record the scene with their cameras. They whirled around the wreckage, bulbs flashing. One, Romuald Rat, of Gamma, even opened the door for a better shot. He said: "I opened the door of the car and saw Princess Diana sitting on the floor. I took her hand. I tried to help her. I told her in English to stay calm and there was help coming." He then took pictures.

A French police report quoted an officer who said: "I could not help the injured because [the photographers] were pushing and I had to call up reinforcements."

A passing French doctor, Frédéric Maillez, administered emergency aid. He did not recognise the semi-concious woman who, in his words, was "moaning and gesturing in every direction". Within 15 minutes, an ambulance arrived. It took 90 minutes to cut the Princess free from the wreckage.

The French Government, alerted to the identity of the car's occupants, ordered a high-level security operation. An ambulance, accompanied by a police motorcade, rushed to La Pitié Salpêtrié Hospital, the largest in Paris, where the British Ambassador to France, Sir Michael Jay, was already waiting.

Within an hour of the crash, a telephone call in the cold corridors of Balmoral woke staff who alerted the Prince of Wales and the Queen. Mohamed Al Fayed, who was asleep in his country estate in Surrey, received a call minutes later.

The Egyptian-born businessman prepared to leave for Paris straight away. But before he could take off in his private helicopter, the telephone rang again with the news: his son, Dodi, 41, was dead.

The Prime Minister, who was asleep in his Sedgefield constituency, was telephoned at 2am. He asked to be kept informed of developments. He woke his wife, Cherie, to tell her the news, then went back to bed, but he was too upset to sleep. Meanwhile, seven French photographers, half the number at the scene

Continued on page 16

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

MONDAY

Continued from page 15

of the crash, were detained by the police. At least three had fled. Before the night was out, British Sunday newspapers were offered pictures of the Princess fatally injured in the wreckage, priced at up to £200,000. The offer was firmly declined.

Slowly the British public came to hear of the tragedy. First reports on BBC radio in the early hours announced that the Princess was involved in a crash, but suggested that she was only slightly injured. In fact, she had suffered massive chest injuries and was haemorrhaging badly. While being operated upon to stem the flow of blood, she suffered a cardiac arrest. An emergency thoracectomy revealed a ruptured left pulmonary vein. As life ebbed away, doctors performed heart massage by hand, first external, then internal.

They kept trying to revive the Princess for a further two hours until, just before 4am, the doctors accepted the inevitable.

Minutes later at Balmoral, the Prince of Wales was told that his former wife was dead. At 4.41am, the news was made public in a terse news flash issued by the Press Association: "Diana, Princess of Wales has died, according to British sources, the Press Association learnt this morning."

Millions of Britons had gone to bed on Saturday night having seen evening-news bulletins showing a laughing Princess as she prepared to leave Sardinia with Mr Fayed. They woke to the sound of the national anthem on radio and television.

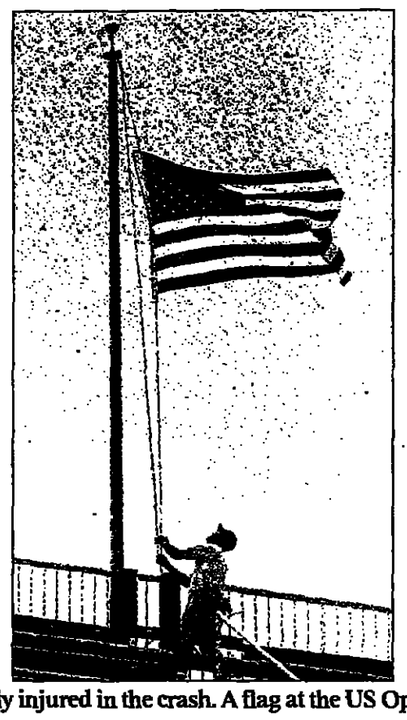
The BBC and ITV ripped up their schedules and devoted their time to the life and death of the Princess. Even commercial radio stations, which usually pumped out a diet of rock and pop, switched to sombre music. The news bulletins reported a short statement issued by Buckingham Palace at 5.09am. "The Queen and the Prince of Wales are deeply shocked and distressed by the terrible news."

CHARLES CRABTREE



On the day after the Princess's death the approach to Kensington Palace had already become a place of pilgrimage. As the days passed, the scene became a sea of floral tributes







Trevor Rees-Jones, left, was seriously injured in the crash. A flag at the US Open tennis championship is lowered to half-mast, and mourners sign a book of condolence in Cardiff

The Prime Minister was already busy. Mr Blair spoke to the Queen and the Prince of Wales by telephone at 9.30am. The Palace was in a state of confusion about the status and style of the funeral, because the divorced wife of a Prince of Wales defied traditional protocol. No contingency plans existed in the event of the Princess's early death, and issues of protocol had not been established.

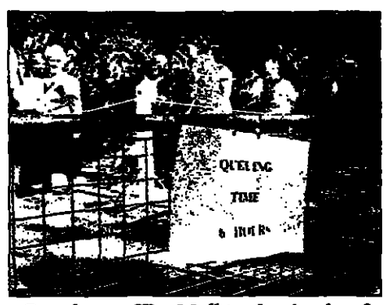
Mr Blair filled the vacuum. He urged that arrangements should respond to the evident wish of the people that the death be marked in a significant way. He rightly suspected that there would be an outcry if it were anything less.

The Prime Minister appeared on television on his way with his family to the 11am service at the St Mary Magdalene Church in Trimdon village in his Sedgefield constituency. He spoke to the nation without notes, but there was nothing spontaneous about the remarks. His voice cracking with emotion, he described the Princess whom he knew and liked. He expressed sympathy for the two young Princes left without a mother. His own mother had died when he was a child. His words struck a chord with the country.

"We are today a nation in a state of shock, in mourning, in grief that is so deeply painful for us," he said. "She was the People's Princess and that is how she will stay, how she will remain in our hearts and memories for ever." It was a phrase which found its way on to hundreds of bouquets. William Hague, the Leader of the Opposition, immediately announced a cancellation of all party political campaigning. Mr Hague, the same age as the Princess, said from his constituency in Richmond, North Yorkshire: "She was a shining individual who will never be forgotten." The Football Association postponed all matches scheduled in England for that day. It was the first time since the death of George VI in 1952 that all fixtures were called off because of the death of anyone outside the national game.

At her Scottish holiday residence, the Queen and the Prince of Wales prepared to face the world. In spite of the appalling news, it was decided that the Royal Family should go to morning service as usual at Crathie Church outside the gates of Balmoral. The young Princes, outwardly calm, were driven slowly to the small parish church where the Royal Family worship during their summer break. The appearance of the boys was at the instigation of the Queen, and against the wishes of the Prince of Wales. It was the first in a series of moves by the Palace which jarred with the public.

Dressed in sombre suits and wearing black ties, the boys walked into the small granite church with their father, the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. The Prince of Wales, who wore a Highland kilt and a black tie, stared straight ahead, looking red-faced with bloodshot eyes.



Queuing on The Mall to sign books of condolence in St James's Palace

The service lasted an hour, but many among the 100 parishioners who attended along with the Royal Family were surprised that no mention was made of the death of the Princess. The Princes, who were in the part of the church reserved for the Royal Family, sat under a bust of Queen Victoria as they listened to a sermon by the Rev Robert Sloan, the Church of Scotland minister, about the unsettling experience of moving house, which was illustrated by, of all things, Billy Connolly jokes. The omission was a further sign that those in Balmoral were out of step with the sentiments of the people around the country.

When later that day Mr Sloan answered criticism of the omission of a prayer to the Princess's memory by saying, "Everybody in the world knew what had happened. Our business was to conduct a normal service of worship," his remarks prompted widespread suspicions that his silence was by royal decree. The Prince of Wales returned to Balmoral before making the journey to Paris to reclaim the body of his former wife. He drove himself to Aberdeen airport, where he was joined by the Princess's sisters, Lady Sarah McCorquodale and Lady Jane Fellowes. Their BAe 146 aircraft of the Royal Squadron landed at Villacoublay, a military airfield 30 minutes southwest of Paris.

Even this straightforward decision was not free of tension. Some Palace officials objected to the body being brought back on a royal flight. The Prince of Wales overruled them.

The party was driven at high speed, under police escort, to the hospital, arriving at 4.40pm, where Jacques Chirac, the President of France, and his wife, Bernadette, greeted them, flanked by a French military guard of honour. The Prince acknowledged the President's condolences and walked into the hospital with Diana's sisters.

Continued on page 17

TUESDAY

THOMAS COEX



People of all ages and sartorial styles made the walk up The Mall to lay their floral tributes to the Princess outside Buckingham Palace

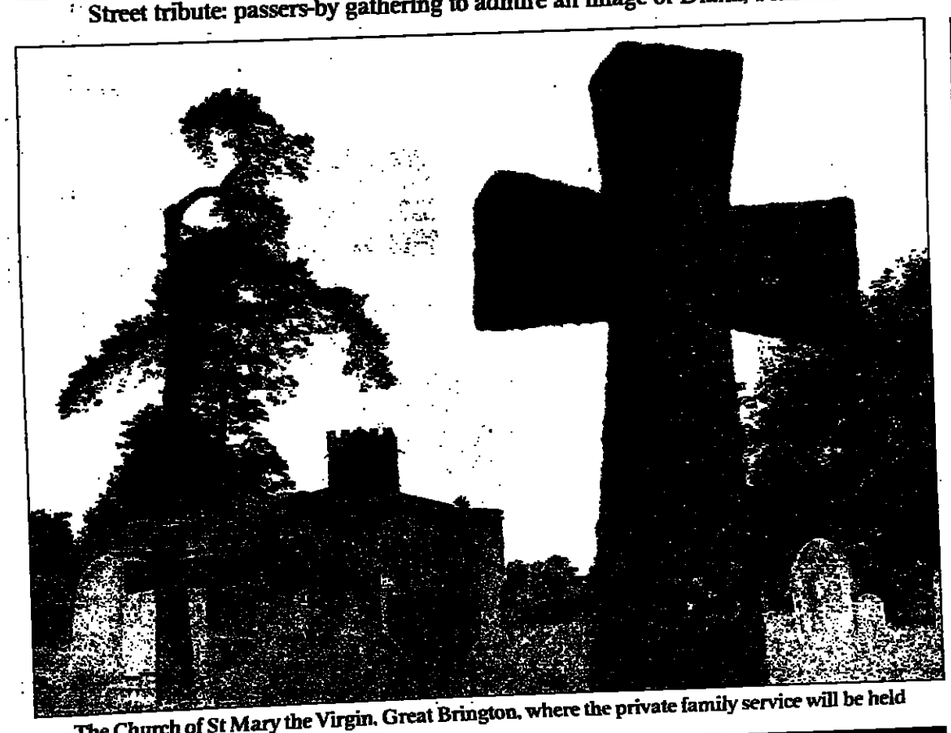
DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

WEDNESDAY

KEVIN LAMARQUE



Street tribute: passers-by gathering to admire an image of Diana, Princess of Wales, on the pavement in the West End of London. The remarkable likeness was drawn in chalk by Julian Beever



The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Brington, where the private family service will be held



The Prince of Wales, and the Princess's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, leaving Oban to prepare for the funeral in London

Continued from page 16

The Prince remained inside for half-an-hour. Each of the group spent a few minutes alone with the coffin in a first-floor room of the casualty unit.

Outside, the large crowd of French people turned on the small number of British and French journalists at the back entrance of the hospital, yelling angrily: "Assassins."

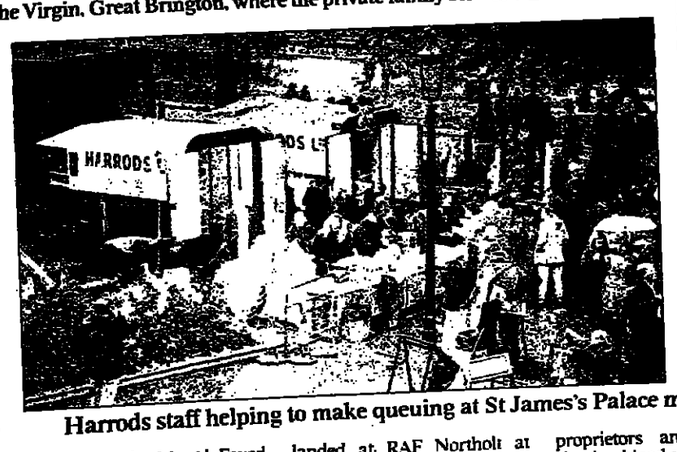
At 5.06pm, millions of people in Britain watched on their television screens as the coffin emerged from the hospital carried by four French military pall bearers, followed by two men carrying bouquets of lilies and gladioli, the Princess's favourite flowers.

The coffin was placed in a steel-blue Rivage hearse on which the blinds were drawn. As the Prince came out of the hospital, silence descended on the crowd and he walked straight to his Jaguar, looking neither right nor left. The motorcade moved off with a wail of sirens and blue flashing lights, with the hearse sixth in the convoy. The Princess's journey home was beginning.

Cameramen, undaunted by the wave of outrage at their colleagues who had played a part in the tragedy, followed on motorcycle pillion to record the procession weaving slowly back to the airfield.

For the crowds lining the route to the airport, the sight was traumatic; men and women wept openly and shook their heads in disbelief. Some clapped as they struggled for a suitable gesture. One senior Elysée official said: "*Quel jour, quelle horreur.*"

Out of sight of the public and the press, the body of Dodi Fayed was brought back to Britain by his father, Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods. Mr Al Fayed begged the French authorities to release the body to ensure that he could comply with Muslim tradition for burials to take place within 24 hours of death. The coffin, draped in black cloth with gold lettering from the Koran, was flown to London on the family jet.



Harrods staff helping to make queuing at St James's Palace more bearable

It was taken to the Regent's Park mosque, where 600 mourners gathered for a simple Muslim ceremony which lasted ten minutes. Mr Fayed's coffin was then taken to Brookwood Cemetery in Woking, the biggest privately owned burial ground in Europe, shortly before 10pm.

His funeral was arranged at such speed that the distraught Mr Al Fayed had not had time to choose the plot in which to bury his first-born son's remains. He was left to ponder the choice of two resting spots as the six-car funeral cortège waited by the cemetery gates.

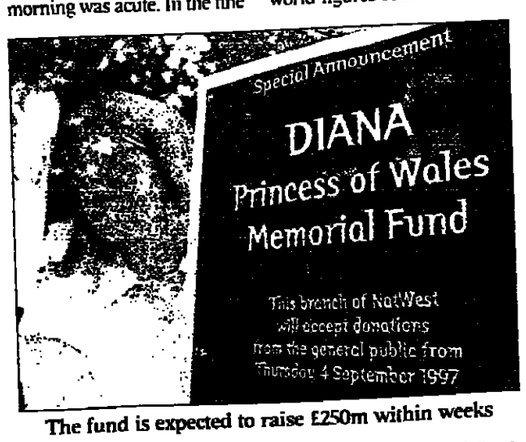
At Buckingham and Kensington Palaces, the crowds began to grow. The plane carrying the Princess's body landed at RAF Northolt at 7pm. The doors opened and the coffin, draped in the Royal Standard with a single wreath of white flowers, was borne across the tarmac by eight RAF pallbearers.

No words were spoken. The only sound was the slow tread of RAF boots. The Prince, the Prime Minister, the Princess's two sisters, the Earl of Airlie, the Lord Chamberlain, whose task would be to organise the funeral, and the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, stood in a line with their heads bowed in the dying light.

As tributes poured in from world leaders, the coffin was placed in the back of a hearse and taken to a private mortuary. The Prince returned to Aberdeen and drove to Balmoral to be with his sons. The Princess's body was moved to the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace just after midnight.

Before the day was out, pressure to find scapegoats was growing. The paparazzi were first in line. Earl Spencer, the Princess's brother, aimed higher — their paymasters. He accused newspaper proprietors and editors of "having blood on their hands" for buying paparazzi pictures.

The dilemma facing Buckingham Palace on Monday morning was acute. In the fine print of protocol, the Princess was divorced and, without her HRH status, was no longer in the first-rank of royalty. There could be no state funeral. The small band of royal courtiers masterminding the arrangements was against such a formal occasion, reserved for monarchs or statesmen such as Sir Winston Churchill. Yet tributes were pouring in from world figures such as Mother Teresa of Calcutta and President Mandela. British newspapers, led by *The Times*, were clear: "Her legacy should help to protect the monarchy. Not since the Abdication has the Palace needed sound heads as it does today. The nation will want a state funeral. There should be no impediment to this — least of all from the Palace itself."



The fund is expected to raise £250m within weeks

Downing Street, sure of its populist touch, was determined to ensure that the Palace discarded its protocol handbook. A series of lengthy off-the-record briefings was given to political correspondents. From these meetings the phrase was born: "The People's Funeral".

By the middle of Monday morning, thousands of people had thronged St James's Palace. They queued for hours to sign five books of condolence, with black-edged pages in black-ringed binders, which were laid out on five tables draped in navy blue cloth. Portraits of military heroes gazed down.

People cried openly when they filed in. Out of sight of those paying their respects, the body of the Princess lay a few yards away in the Chapel Royal, redolent of the monarchy's history. In the same chapel, Charles I received Holy Communion before he crossed the park to his execution at Whitehall in 1649. It was the same chapel in which Victoria married Albert in 1840, and the future George V married Queen Mary in 1893. The Princess's body lay by the chapel altar, beneath the elaborate Holbein ceiling and next to a painting which commemorated the marriage of Henry VIII to Anne of Cleves.

The Palace, which was taken aback by the volume of people wanting to leave personal messages, announced that the opening hours would be extended and the doors would remain open 24 hours a day until Friday night.

People had been gravitating towards the gates of Buckingham Palace since at 6am on Sunday, as they desperately sought an outlet for their emotion. They came armed with small posies and sprays of flowers which they had the cut from their gardens as the sun rose.

But, in the first of a series of rows about protocol, the police refused to let them lay the bouquets on the ground or attach them to the Palace railings. They were only carrying out orders. The bylaws forbid such public shows of affection at the royal residences. The police were not given permission to change the rules, even for the death of a Princess.

By 8.30am there were hundreds of people at Buckingham, Kensington and St James's Palace. Almost as one they pressed forward and, in the first of many breaks with tradition, silently pushed the police aside to pay their floral respects. Under pressure of the emotional crowd, the police gave way.

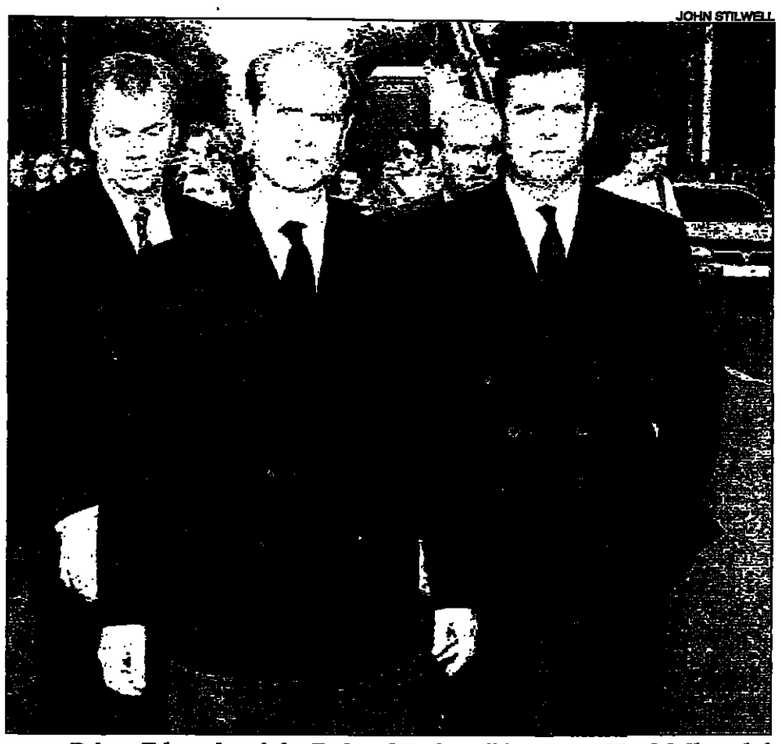
At Kensington Palace, the mourners arrived at a rate of 6,000 an hour. Smart-suited businessmen and women made detours on their way to and from work to pay their respects. Candles flickered next to photographs of the People's Princess. Hushed voices in the lines were awash with sentiment. Some had met her. Most had not. All said they had been touched by her. Young and old. Black and

Continued on page 18

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES: THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

THURSDAY

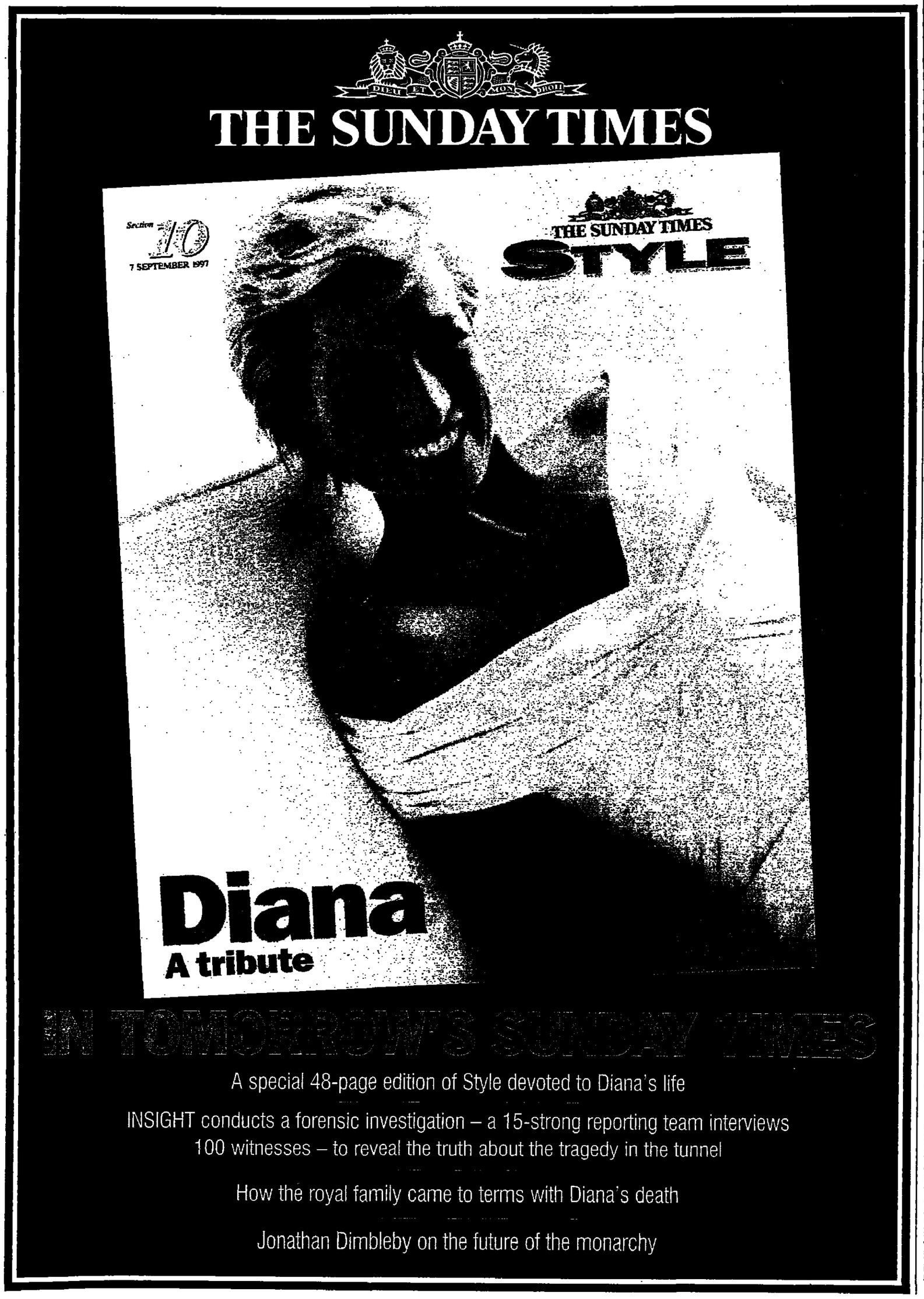
JOHN STILWELL



MIKE WILKINSON



Prince Edward and the Duke of York walking down The Mall, and the Duke of Edinburgh with the Prince of Wales and his sons looking at the floral tributes left by the public outside Balmoral



Continued from page 17

white. Some in wheelchairs. By lunchtime, there was dramatic news from Paris. Police blood tests on Henri Paul, the dead driver, showed that he had been at least three times over the French drink-drive limit.

He had been drunk when he set off with the Princess and Mr Fayed from the Ritz hotel. Around the world, the revelation provoked a deep wave of anger and emotion that the safety of the Princess had been entrusted to a drunk who drove at reckless speeds.

Michael Cole, the public affairs director for Harrods, toured the television and radio studios to try to lay the blame firmly at the feet of the photographers. He was only partially successful. The headlines in evening newspapers were unanimous: "The driver was drunk."

As the shock waves reverberated, Buckingham Palace announced "a unique funeral for a unique person" to be held on Saturday, to ensure the maximum number of people could attend. The funeral service would be held at Westminster Abbey and would seat 2,000 mourners. Detachments from the Army, Navy and RAF would accompany the coffin, to be borne on a gun carriage. It was announced that the Princess, in keeping with the wishes of her family, would be lain to rest alongside her father at the Spencer family chapel in Althorp, Northamptonshire (later, this was changed to the family estate). The Palace's offer of Frogmore, a traditional resting place of members of the Royal Family, was rejected by the Spencers.

The Palace announced that it had opted for the shortest possible processional route from St James's to Westminster Abbey, but it soon became clear that the weight of public interest would overwhelm such a brief funeral procession. Those who had made the journey to London to say farewell to their Princess were appalled at the prospect of not being able to see the coffin as it passed by.

Harrods said that it would mark the occasion by closing for only the second Saturday this century. (The store had attracted criticism for remaining open on Sunday.) The last time the shop had closed on a Saturday was for Sir Winston Churchill's funeral. Flowers and candles lay 7ft deep at the doors. The flag on the roof was flown at half mast. The 11,000 bulbs which lit the outside of the store at night were turned off. Roads around Knightsbridge and Kensington were brought to a standstill.

In Cardiff, Birmingham, and Edinburgh, there were similar scenes. A string of cancellations were announced in the worlds of business, arts and sport. Britain would effectively grind to a halt on Saturday, the day of the funeral.

It was announced that the National Lottery draw would be postponed. Cinemas and theatres cancelled shows. Sports events were moved. Banks announced that they would not open. Shops would delay their opening hours. The Saturday football programme was rescheduled. The horse-racing calendar was cancelled at a cost of £300,000. The Braemar Highland Games, held ten miles from Balmoral, were called off for the first time in 180 years. The Queen, the patron, had attended the event nearly every year of her reign.

The nation seemed to unite as airports, railway stations, and shopping centres announced, unprompted, a two-minute silence at 11am as the funeral service began. Buckingham Palace, still slow to respond to the public mood, was left trailing. Saturday, September 6 was rechristened Silent Saturday.

Officials at St James's Palace could barely believe their eyes on Tuesday morning. The queue, which had grown through the night, was by now seven hours long. Belatedly, the number of condolence books was increased from five to 14. Yet the announcement merely served to increase the number paying tribute. By nightfall, the faithful were waiting nine hours.

For the first time, there was a subtle but decisive shift in the mood of the mourners. They began to talk of frustration and resentment at the apparent aloofness of the Royal Family who had remained in private mourning, behind the closed doors of Balmoral Castle.

They bemoaned the absence of a flag at half mast over Buckingham Palace, a visible symbol of royal mourning. Instead, a solitary piece of rope flapped in the wind against the flagpole. Protocol, the Palace declared, dictated that no flag could fly unless the monarch was in residence.

It was not only the public



Status symbol: a poster displayed in The Mall

which failed to understand the distinction. Downing Street and the Prince of Wales battled in vain with the Queen and her advisers to allow the distinctive symbol of royal mourning to be flown on the Palace. The advisers, in a series of increasingly angry exchanges with the Prince of Wales, refused to back down. The explanation cut little ice with the crowds outside, who came to believe that the Royal Family was showing insufficient respect for the mother of the future King.

But the crowds were heartened by reports from France. After an eight-hour court hearing in which the seven photographers were held in handcuffs, the judge ordered a manslaughter inquiry. All but two were released on bail.

To an unsympathetic public, the photographers protested that the police deprived them of sleep for three days and responded to their pleas for water by ordering them to drink from the toilets, all the time demanding the names of the "ones who got away". The photographers' high-profile lawyers complained bitterly that the French Government was managing a a witch-hunt.

The police made another, more touching, discovery. In the wreckage of the car they found the ring which Dodi had bought the Princess on Saturday afternoon. Behind behind the scenes in Britain, there was a growing battle between friends of the

Continued on page 19

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES : THE WEEK THE WORLD MOURNED

FRIDAY



Police officers, surrounded by floral tributes to the Princess, at the gates of Buckingham Palace awaiting the arrival of the Queen, who travelled back to London from Balmoral on the eve of the funeral

Continued from page 19

Princess and the traditionalists led by Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, over the details of the funeral. The old guard was appalled by moves to include any theatrical flourishes which broke with tradition. In the Chinese Drawing Room of Buckingham Palace, Elton John's name was mentioned at a meeting of the committee overseeing the funeral. The suggestion that a pop star should sing at the service startled some advisers.

Others felt it was entirely apt. The singer was a close friend of the Princess, a fellow campaigner for Aids charities. Millions remembered the pictures of the Princess comforting the singer at the funeral of Gianni Versace in July. With deadlock about the tone of the funeral, no agreement could be reached. The Queen would have to be consulted; she must take the decision.

With the Prime Minister in full support, the Prince and his officials battled in vain for the Royal Family to emerge from behind the parapeted walls of remote Blamoral and break the silence. It seemed that life was going on there much as normal and it was suggested that a stag-hunting party would take place as planned. the Queen's advisers seemed oblivious to the growing groundswell of unease over their handling of the tragedy.

Small concessions were wrung from the Palace which, having been wrongfooted the previous day on the two-minute silence, decreed there would be a one-minute silence at about 11.45am, when the service was expected to end. But still there was criticism, this time over the failure to specify a precise time for the observation.

The details of the route were formalised. The body would be taken to the abbey on a gun carriage of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in the manner in which Edward VII, George V, George VI, the Duke of Windsor, Sir Winston Churchill and Earl Mountbatten of Burma made their final journeys in the full panoply of state funerals. With every fresh announcement, the funeral took on more of the complexion of a full state occasion which the Palace had appeared anxious to avoid at the beginning of the week.

The Palace hinted that the young Princes might walk behind their mother's coffin with the Prince of Wales and Earl Spencer, her brother. The devastated boys, it emerged, were being comforted at Balmoral by Alexandra "Tiggy" Legge-Bourke, the former nanny had who played such a key role in their upbringing.

The immediate shock of the Princess's death was beginning to fade. By Wednesday, after the revelations about the involvement of the paparazzi and the drunken driver, public attention focussed firmly on the funeral role of the House of Windsor. Buckingham Palace, which constantly reacted to events rather than dictating them, appeared more isolated than ever. *The Sun*, in a characteristically blunt editorial, accused the family of being out of touch and behaving like aliens from another planet. The Palace responded by increasing the number of condolence books from 15 to 43, the maximum number that the room at St James's Palace could practically hold.

Only one organisation appeared more clumsy than the Palace. The Scottish Football Association inflamed raw emotion by refusing to postpone a World Cup qualifying match on the day of the funeral. It took the personal intervention of the Prime Minister, and the decision by three Scottish national players to withdraw from the line-up if the match were not called off, to force the SFA to retreat.

As questions continued to be asked about the hermit-like existence of the Royal Family, Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of the Princess, broke her silence. As she left her remote island home in the West of Scotland to join her other children in London for the funeral, she thanked people for their prayers and support. Dressed in black and looking tired and drawn, she said: "I thank God for the gift of Diana and for all her loving and giving. I give her back to Him with my love, pride and admiration to rest in peace."

In London, the Metropolitan Police added to the Royal Family's difficulties by criticising the absence of refreshment facilities for the mourners after Palace authorities had banned mobile vendors from operating in The Mall and St James's Park. Mohamed Al Fayed to sent Harrods vans with volunteer staff to dispense tea, coffee and sandwiches to the thousands queueing for 10 hours to sign the condolence books, as concern grew for their welfare.

There was still concern that the short funeral route would not meet the expectations of the crowd. The Prince of Wales feared that hundreds of thousands of people would be denied access to what promised to be an unprecedented show of national emotion. It was at his personal intervention that the route to Westminster Abbey was doubled, the coffin now starting from Kensington Palace.

And in a further move to defuse growing public hostility, the Palace issued a statement acknowledging the extraordinary nationwide wave of sympathy for the Princess. "All the Royal Family, especially the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry, are taking strength from the overwhelming support of the public who are sharing their tremendous sense of loss and grief. They are deeply touched and enormously moved."

Sandy Henney, a Palace official, defended the family's decision to stay at Balmoral out of public view. The Royal Family, she said, were grief-stricken. They were sharing their sadness together as a family at home. It was announced that the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother would arrive in London on Saturday morning.

But even as Ms Henney spoke, Lord Blake, the constitutional historian and adviser to Buckingham Palace, gave an interview to *The Times* in which he said that the Queen should broadcast to the nation to try to limit any more damage. He said: "They are sticking too much to the rulebook. There always has to be a great deal of protocol and precedent in royal matters. But it would hardly set any dangerous precedents if they relinquished the rulebook on this special occasion. There will never be another Princess Diana."



Mourners pause to examine the growing floral tributes on the lawns of Westminster Abbey, many of which carried heartfelt messages

Newspapers the next day were almost unanimous in their criticism of the arrangements made on behalf of the Royal Family. A leading article in *The Times* said that, to many, the adherence to precedent over the royal flags was "unsympathetic and incomprehensible". It continued: "A principal function of the modern monarchy lies in a symbolism of whose potency the late Princess was the supreme exponent. What is the nation to make of silence and absence at a time of vocal and visible lamentation?"

There were many more in the same vein. The *Daily Mail* argued that reigning houses rose and fell on their ability to symbolise the deepest feelings of the people they served, and warned that "the nation's sorrow could turn to anger".

Stuart Higgins, the Editor of *The Sun*, working in his sixth-floor office in the News International building in Wapping, penned his most virulent attack on the Queen. In a front-page editorial he demanded: "Where is the Queen when the country needs her? She is 550 miles from London, the focal point of the nation's grief." The empty flagpole at the Palace was an "insult to Di's memory". More than 40,000 *Sun* readers rang a special hotline to demand a public show from the Royal Family.

All newspaper editors had been invited to the funeral. Earl Spencer telephoned the editors of all six tabloids personally, with Mr Higgins high on his list, to ask them not to attend. Although some had already accepted invitations from Buckingham Palace, they agreed, reluctantly, to stay away.

By Thursday lunchtime, the final vigil for the Princess was under way, 60 hours before the nation united for the funeral. People with umbrellas, sleeping bags and suitcases full of mourning clothes started to reserve places on the pavements outside Westminster Abbey. What had begun as a mere handful of bouquets placed carefully at the gates of Kensington Palace, in the hours after the Princess's death, was transformed into a sea of flowers 5ft high, spreading out 70ft. Children had left their favourite teddy bears.

Buckingham Palace finally sounded the retreat. If was the end game of the tragedy. In a momentous day, Thursday saw protocol and precedent dramatically overturned to meet the mood of the people. In a whirlwind of activity, all the changes demanded by public opinion unfolded by the hour. In a victory for the Prime Minister and the Prince of Wales against the Windsor tradition, the Queen bowed to public pressure and announced that she would break with precedent and return early to London and broadcast to the nation on Friday night. The sense of a country united in loss was strengthened by the move.

For the first time, as soon as the Queen set off for the funeral, the Royal Standard above Buckingham Palace would be replaced by a Union Flag flying at half-mast. Despite strong opposition from some of the Queen's closest advisers, Elton John was asked to sing at the abbey. The service would mix pop with liturgy. The Queen also changed her original plans to travel overnight on the royal train to arrive in London this morning.

On Thursday evening the Royal Family emerged from the seclusion of Balmoral to attend a special church service. They paused outside the castle gates for five minutes while the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, the two young Princes and Peter Phillips, the son of the Princess Royal, stood among the lilies, chrysanthemums, sunflowers, carnations and roses which bore witness to the scale of national grief.

The Queen wore black. The Duke and Prince of Wales wore kilts, while the Princes William and Harry were in suits. Prince Harry clung to his father's hand as he leaned to read a card. It said of his mother: "We will always remember you. You were a ray of sunshine."

Prince William, who seemed ill at ease at first, pointed out cards to his father and the Queen. It was a touching display of closeness which, with their agreement, was in full public view. A Palace official maintained the line that the appearance was not in response to public criticism. "This is a family going to church for private prayers."

At Kensington Palace the people who had come to grieve, who christened themselves "Diana's Army", were exultant.

When those with radios passed on the news that the Queen was to address the nation, applause rippled along the ribbon of people stretching outside the walls of St James's Palace. And when Prince Edward and the Duke of York went to St James's Palace to pay their respects to the Princess on Thursday, they were mobbed by the crowds.

The Royal Family, which had so often appeared to be stumbling in the wake of events and never quite catching them up during a week of unparalleled national sadness, was now fully in line with the public mood.

But as the country unites for the funeral today, the activity of the past 48 hours suggested the first glimpse of a monarchy which was at last learning the lesson of the Princess's life: that they should be responsive and spontaneous — and not afraid to show that they, too, have hearts.



A solitary candlelit vigil outside the abbey

The day tears broke down the barriers

Anthony Howard compares Diana's funeral today to that of the Kennedys

"Women wept silently on the pavements while strong men broke down in the side streets." That phrase — describing the scenes in London at Queen Victoria's funeral — used to give great delight to the senior history master at Westminster when I was a schoolboy there. It somehow seemed to him (he had been born only some 20 years after Victoria died) to sum up the entire code of conduct that was expected of people in the Victorian era.

Now, of course, we live in a wholly different world, whose motto would seem to be "Let it all hang out". When did the new fashion for the manifestation of raw emotion start? If I had to locate a point of origin, it would be the two Kennedy funerals — one (the President's) in November 1963, and the other (Senator Robert Kennedy's) in June 1968.

I was not in Washington for the first — though, as I remember it, the whole world thought (for television was then pretty much of an international novelty) that it had a ringside seat for it. Who, having once seen it, can ever obliterate from memory that shot of the three-year-old John-John saluting his father's coffin? If the sight of the black riderless charger had failed to bring a tear to the eye, then that final glimpse of the youngest next generation male Kennedy paying his own infant's tribute outside Washington's St Matthew's Cathedral did it instead. It was typical perhaps that afterwards there should have been an extraordinary milling reception hosted by Jacqueline Kennedy in the White House — an occasion that was actually (and almost unbelievably) combined with the young John-John's third birthday party.

Anglo-Saxons are meant to be upholders of reticence

The Irish are, of course, well known for liking a sentimental wake: it is the Anglo-Saxons, brought up on the brave north-easter, who are meant to be upholders of reticence and reserve. But that barrier did not first come down in London this week: it cracked in America finally and irreversibly the day almost 30 years ago that they brought Robert Kennedy's coffin down on the train to Washington after the Requiem Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue.

Railway carriages are probably better places for releasing emotion than motor cars — and it was the WASPS (Averell Harriman, Douglas Dillon, even Lord Harlech) just as much as the Paddies (Joe Gargan, Ken O'Donnell, Larry O'Brien) — who let it all out on that blazing hot June day as the funeral train made its interminable journey (killing two or three people on the way) from Penn Station in New York to Washington's Union Station, just a stone's throw from the Capitol.

The last part of the funeral — the interment at Arlington National Cemetery (the equivalent of what will happen rather more privately on an island on a lake in Althorp Park this afternoon) — was frankly not a great success. It was also, incidentally, a source of some embarrassment to at least one celebrated British journalist who, in order to contend with the five-hour time gap between London and Washington, had risked writing his own piece of lyrical prose in advance. In it he described in precise terms how "the sunlight had danced upon the coffin". Alas, for his reputation: so long had the train journey taken — it lasted more than eight hours — that it was already pitch dark by the time the mourners got to the grave site next door to the eternal flame marking President Kennedy's burial place.

There was a good deal of confusion and anger. The young staffers from Robert Kennedy's Senate office did not mix too easily with the representatives of the Special Forces who an earlier generation from JFK's Camelot had insisted should attend. By the end, despite the twinkling candles, there was an element of blundering around and even the pall bearers did not seem to be certain where the coffin should be placed.

But by then, of course, everyone was exhausted, with the exhaustion that only grief and bereavement can bring. If D-Day in 1944 has understandably gone down in history as "the longest day", this was perhaps the runner-up.

By the time the Kennedy family made its way down the hillside of Mount Vernon (on their way back to another Irish wake at the Kennedy home at Hickory Hill) it was already past 11 o'clock at night — and St Patrick's doors in New York had opened at 8am that morning.

The Requiem Mass — and who should be entitled to attend it — had posed many of the same problems as today's service in Westminster Abbey. The Kennedy task force of young men especially established to arrange it had had only 48 hours to do so — the funeral was on Saturday, June 8, and Bobby Kennedy's death had been announced only in the small hours of the morning of Thursday, June 6. But, in fact, the Kennedy staffers had known of his true condition well before that. They realised that there was no chance of his surviving once he had been shot, in the pantry off the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles around midnight on Tuesday, June 4. But they had not been able to go into action, even to begin negotiations with Arlington National Cemetery, until the news was official on the Thursday morning.

They achieved a remarkable feat of logistics mixed at moments with the chance to get their own back — or, at least in the famous Kennedy phrase, "to get even". Bobby Kennedy's was essentially a political funeral; and, as with Lord Spencer and the tabloid editors, there were scores to be settled, and grudges to be paid off. Curiously, St Patrick's Cathedral, New York, could hold even more people, 2,300, than the 1,900 who will fill Westminster Abbey this morning; but, despite the vast throng, no ticket of admission to any Kennedy gathering had ever been more eagerly coveted. The last Kennedy "advance men" had, of course, no option but to admit the former candidate's arch-enemy, President Lyndon Johnson, but they were at least able to draw the line at Governor George Wallace, despite his having been a rival contender in that summer's primaries.

Given that it was essentially the last event of a presidential campaign, the 1968 Kennedy funeral might, understandably, be perceived as having very little in common with the service that is taking place in the Abbey today. But, besides the torrent of emotion that each let loose across the length and breadth of a nation, there is perhaps one further comparison.

Almost three decades ago in New York in delivering the eulogy for his brother, Senator Edward Kennedy declared: "Today I pick up a fallen banner." It would be surprising if that line — or at least something very like it — does not go round in the head of young Prince William this morning. For dynasties are about destinies — and in royal ones, there is never any escape.

Cardinal Basil Hume pays a final tribute to a Princess as frail as any of us, but deeply loved

On her way to a vision of God

The mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, is a Roman Catholic. Last night in Westminster Cathedral, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster and the head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, preached this homily at a Requiem Mass offered for the repose of the soul of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Death, where is your victory?
Death, where is your sting?

Saint Paul was in defiant mood when he wrote those words in his letter to the Corinthians.

No, death, you cannot defeat us. One day you will visit each one of us, we know. Not one of us can escape from you. We recoil from you, for we see in you an enemy, the ruthless destroyer of life, the foe who shows no mercy. But no, death, victory will not be yours, for we believe that Christ rose from the dead in order to open up for us a gateway to another place where union with God locks us for ever into that endless "now" of ecstatic love. We were made for that. No, death is not the end but a new beginning.

Diana, you are now on your way to the vision of God, to a happiness this world cannot give, where true peace is to be found. Tell us: did you, early on Sunday morning, suddenly find yourself in the presence of God, realising then, as we all must, that none of us is worthy to be in that Presence, face to face, until ready to be so?

Our Catholic faith tells us that our prayers can help the dead to be prepared for union with God. We shall pray that the last part of the journey for you, Diana, will be swift and easy.

I know that you will not mind my saying that you were like the rest of us, frail, imperfect, flawed, but we loved you still. It is thus also with God Himself. He loves us very much. He now embraces you in death. He will most surely judge you mercifully. The maimed, the sick, the young, the old, were of much concern to you. You will have discovered that in serving these, you were in fact serving Him, even if you had not realised it at the time. We have the Lord's authority for that.

> When Lord did we see you hungry
> and feed you,
> or thirsty and give you to drink,
> saw you a stranger...

homeless, injured, sick, marginalised...

> As often as you did this to the least
> of these,
> my brothers and sisters,

the Lord said,

> you did it to me,

records St Matthew.

There will be many greeting you now with gratitude and joy, those who have gone before you and whom you helped so generously. For us it is different. We remain behind to weep and to mourn. It is right that we should do so. A sense of loss and bereavement has been strong, the initial shock with us still. We had to do something, lay flowers at different places, queue for several hours to sign our names, the scale of this quite surprising and impressive. We expressed something deep within us through such actions. They were an unconscious prayer to God, almost, as well as a lovely tribute to you, Diana.

But for those of us who remain there is more. We are being called by this sad death to reflect on many things. The sudden awfulness of her death has been a brutal awakening to our own mortality, to a fragility of all our human joys and sorrows. We are being called to acknowledge that it is not here in this world that our ultimate happiness is to be found. Maybe the events of this last week have already awakened within us, or may yet do so, that religious instinct which leads us to seek the true meaning and purpose of our lives. Maybe God is knocking at our doors at this time seeking to be admitted into our minds and hearts.

As a nation we must discover what it is to be charitable. We must all become more sensitive to the needs of each other, more tolerant of each other's faults, less cynical about motives, less anxious to cut others down to size, more understanding of their actions, and of their difficulties as well. We should also reflect on the way we treat those prominent in public life, how much privacy we give them, what respect we accord them. There is much for us to consider. When these days of sorrow and mourning are over, life will become normal again, and so it should. But the lessons must not be forgotten.

> Farewell, then, Diana.
> The agonies of the heart and
> anguish of the mind
> were often your companions in
> life.
> They were your teachers, too,
> for from them you learnt understanding, compassion and
> kindness.
> These are your finest legacy to us.
> Thank you for all the good you did.
> Thank you for the joy you gave to
> many.
> Thank you for being like the rest of us,
> flawed but loveable, and above all
> loved by God.

At peace with the people

Diana's final resting place should be somewhere her public may freely visit

Simon Jenkins

KIERAN DOCHERTY



Great Brington church would have made a proper memorial for its most celebrated daughter

After the public grief, the resting in tranquillity. The body of Diana Princess of Wales moves today from its last and most sensational engagement to a place of exquisite repose, a plot of land in an English country park. From one last blinding flash of limelight Diana travels to a final privacy. On an island in an Althorp lake she can, in Gray's words, "watch the glimmering landscape fade... and shut the gates of mercy on mankind".

In death, the English return to their roots. The French bury their famous in pantheons, the Italians in mausoleums. The English go home. They seek out the ancestral acres and bury themselves in the earth on which their forefathers walked. The mighty Cecils lie in the church at Bishop's Hatfield, where tenants and retainers still pray in their shadow. The Russells lie not at Woburn but near the old house at Chenies, the Manners lie in Bottesford, the Vernons in Tong. Most of these families sprang from yeoman stock. With the dust of yeomanry they seek companionship in death.

Twenty generations of Spencers have lain in the family chapel at St Mary's Great Brington, including Diana's father. Yesterday's decision that her tomb should be sequestered in the private estate, accessible to the public for only a few weeks a year, is understandable but sad. I hope that after the initial burst of grief has passed the decision might be reversed. Diana was a famous person who welcomed public affection. For her family to claim her back, as if for their own, seems a harsh response to this affection.

Few English churches more perfectly embody "the still small voice of calm" than Great Brington. Its 13th-century tower of warm, honey-coloured stone rises on a grassy knoll outside the village. Oak and chestnut shade the churchyard. The undulating fields of Northamptonshire roll towards Althorp in the distance.

Every age of English architecture has touched the interior, from the Purbeck Norman font to the carved poppy-heads on the bench ends. On one of these, and on an old brass, can be found the original "stars and stripes". These were the coat of arms of the local Washington family, friends of the 17th-century Spencers and ancestors of the founder of the American republic.

Tucked into the northeast corner of the church is the mortuary chapel built by Sir John Spencer in 1514. He had moved to Althorp from Warwickshire and wished to house his remains and those of his family in the community next to his new home. War and revolution have smashed most such shrines to landlordism elsewhere in Europe. They survive in England, testament to political stability and familial loyalty to the land, but testament also to the bond between great families and their local communities. Spencers are present in this chapel in unbroken line across almost five centuries.

In this the Great Brington tombs are probably unique. They comprise a gallery of English Renaissance sculpture that would merit a room to themselves in any museum, were they not already in the vernacular museum that is an English parish church.

Between chancel and chapel stands a trio of monuments, as if Spencer's eagerness to boast his wealth was struggling to escape the humility of his chosen domain. He died in 1522 and the tomb is still Gothic in style, but over his head is a tiny Renaissance angel, copied from the tomb of Henry VII at Westminster.

In the adjacent arches are two grandiose monuments by the Dutch sculptor Jasper Hollemans from the late 16th century. These are magnificent reliquaries, full of bombast and colour. The ladies' Elizabethan costumes are extraordinary. These Spencers were on the way from gentry to nobility. They clearly shopped well.

Behind this Tudor palisade is the chapel itself with monuments of alabaster and marble in styles Renaissance, Baroque, Grecian and Gothic revival. Walls, ceilings and windows are covered in more than 400 heraldic emblems. There are Spencers in double beds, in temples, before obelisks. There is even half a Spencer rising eerily from an urn, resurrected from cremation on the Day of Judgment, Bible in hand. At the turn of the present century Earl Spencer donated a crowning glory, a set of William Morris windows which suffuse chapel and chancel with brilliant colour.

Yet all this is encompassed in a chamber the size of a family drawing room. So crowded did the chapel become that later Spencers were buried in a vault beneath the chapel. When in the 1950s this began to decay the coffins were exhumed and the bodies cremated and reburied as ashes. Diana's father rests in this vault. Never have Spencers departed the place. The link of family and church, of house, estate, village and soil has outlived every travail, and can surely outlive the present one, however traumatic.

The tradition of family burial in church was not without class distinction. Indeed, within the feudal context, it was a public assertion of sovereignty and wealth. The Cobhams of Kent made a habit of placing their effigies plumb in the front of the altar, to be sure to rise facing their Maker ahead of lesser mortals on Resurrection Day.

Some grandees, such as the Beauchamps at Warwick, were happy to lie in their local church, but with a splendour that outranked a monarch. Such families worshipped and were buried alongside their neighbours. But the "rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate" was a distinction that continued even after death.

Yet this fusion of rich and poor within the boundaries of a local church gave England's rural communities a cohesion that survived every political upheaval. For centuries, landlord and tenant, nobleman and commoner found shelter in the ceremonials of life under the same roof. When Thomas Gray reflected on the souls in Stoke Poges churchyard, he was overwhelmed by the egalitarianism of death. He noted "the short and simple annals of the poor", written on every stone. They were written in the same place of worship and in the same clear English hand as the annals of the rich. Death was the leveller.

Yesterday's decision seems to concede that all this is beyond Great Brington's embrace. On the evidence of the past week, the church seemed threatened with a status equal to Walsingham or even Lourdes. But the near-hysteria of this week will pass. The crowds that are filling London today are coming to an event, a ceremony, to pay their last respects. They did likewise for Churchill. Yet Churchill was buried in Bladon's simple country churchyard. Parish churches house the tombs of Shakespeare and Wordsworth without exploitation or ruin. At Arlington, the Americans contrive a simple flame at which those who wish to remember President Kennedy can watch and pray. These things can be handled.

The exploitation of grief is best denied in a simple but public modesty. To shut the tomb away risks encouraging mystique and intrusion, both of which should surely be anathema to Diana's memory. It admits a sort of defeat. If the tomb cannot be in the chapel then it could surely be in the churchyard outside the chapel wall; and if not the tomb then at least a memorial. This siting would permit public access without subjecting the interior of the church or chapel to wear and tear.

The Church of England is a no-nonsense institution and the Spencers a sensible family. When the media has departed and grief become more intimate, Great Brington church could surely become the proper and dignified memorial to its most celebrated daughter. By moving her there, the Spencers would be more than honouring the tradition of their family. They would be acknowledging the tradition of the parish church as the lasting home of even the most famous English men and women.

Perhaps another day. For the moment privacy is clearly to take precedence. A park, a lake, an island and a patch of grass offers Diana's memory the most fragile quality in nature's gift, tranquillity. May she rest in peace.

Peter Riddell finds an historical precedent for a Prime Minister advising the monarchy

Under Disraeli's mantle, Tony Blair lends a hand

Tony Blair has this week taken on the mantle of Disraeli and Baldwin, two very dissimilar predecessors. His active role in the discussions about the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, is not, as some critics have suggested, an interference in the affairs of the Royal Family, a breach with precedent to gain political advantage.

Rather, he has been acting as a bridge between the people and the Palace, a traditional, though little discussed, role of the Prime Minister. Mr Blair has been doing his duty as the monarch's leading adviser, a voice of the people in these extraordinary circumstances.

Since the mid-19th century, Prime Ministers have been active behind the scenes in advising the monarch on the public mood, on everything from marriages to funerals. This is shown by the new film *Mrs Brown*, with Judi Dench and Billy Connolly, and Antony Sher as Disraeli, who uses Brown's influence over the Queen for his own ends.

Bagehot's famous definition



Disraeli: charmed Victoria

in *The English Constitution* of the rights of the monarch — to be consulted, to advise and to warn — could be inverted. The Prime Minister has similar rights and successive occupants of 10 Downing Street have used them.

The first, and most spectacular, was Disraeli who, in an uncanny but much longer drawn-out parallel with the events of this week, helped to break down the isolation of Queen Victoria after the death of Albert in 1861. Her withdrawal from public life in the following decade led to widespread criticism and the only serious flowering of republicanism since the era of Cromwell. That ended in 1871 when the Prince of Wales nearly died from typhoid, producing an outbreak of monarchist enthusiasm.

In his second premiership from 1874 until 1880, Disraeli worked to secure the monarch's later prominence as a national and, indeed, imperial focus of loyalty. Lord Blake, a leading constitutional authority who has contributed to this week's discussions, has written vividly in his *Disraeli* how the latter charmed the Queen laying on flattery "with a trowel", as he himself admitted. Disraeli described her as the Faery, in "an ironic romantic allusion to Spenser's *Faerie Queene*".

Lord Blake wrote that past historians "underestimate the degree to which monarchs all down history have from time to time craved for someone who would cut through the formal, grave, hierarchical protocol which constitutes their normally necessary defence against familiarity or impertinence". Disraeli was able to "manage" the Queen. "Far more often than not," Lord Blake wrote, "Disraeli persuaded the Queen to do what he wanted, but he could never be sure of success."

In 1876 Disraeli persuaded "the Queen to open Parliament in person, although he himself narrowly escaped being trampled underfoot by the rush of Members to see the novel spectacle". This transformation was underlined by the legislation making her Empress of India.

A later example was Stanley Baldwin's role in the Abdication crisis of 1936. As Professor Vernon Bogdanor has pointed out in his *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, Baldwin never formally advised King Edward VIII to abdicate. "Baldwin was at all times during the Abdication crisis determined, first, that Mrs Simpson could never become Queen, and, secondly, that the ultimate decision as to whether the King would marry Mrs Simpson and abdicate or, alternatively, renounce her, was one that must be taken by the King and not by his ministers." Nonetheless, Baldwin clearly manoeuvred to ensure that the King did not act against the wishes of his ministers, even though formally the decision was the King's. It was all done subtly, mobilising the opinion of the Church and of the heads of government of the Dominions, as Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa were then known.



Blair: a leading adviser

The release of Cabinet papers under the 30-year rule has shown the close involvement of Sir Winston Churchill and his ministers in the planning of the funeral of King George VI in 1952 and in the Coronation of the present Queen in the following year, and the disapproval of the veteran Prime Minister of the involvement of television cameras in both events.

More recently, John Major was closely involved in advising both the Prince of Wales and his former wife during the breakdown of their marriage. Colleagues said he spent a large amount of time in discussions with both.

Mr Blair's role has been in that tradition. He and his advisers in Downing Street have been closely involved in discussions over the handling of the funeral, all the time aware of the changing public mood this week shown by the vast, silent crowds in The Mall and around Buckingham Palace and St James's Palace.

Like Disraeli 120 years ago, Mr Blair's advisers have sought, and to judge by yesterday's announcement, succeeded in conveying the popular mood to the often closed world of the monarch's court.

As the head of the democratic part of the constitution, Mr Blair has, like Disraeli, been responsible for ensuring popular support for the pinnacle of the hereditary element.

FUNERAL DAY

A time to pray and praise

All this week, Britain has lurched between pandemonium and paradise. Today, perhaps, as Diana, Princess of Wales, is laid to rest, the nation may recover its equilibrium. Last Sunday we awoke as if to a nightmare. But it was all true; and it got worse. A hideous tale unfolded, each new twist of which plunged the country into deeper despair. Then an extraordinary, almost uncanny process began. Spontaneously, but as if bidden by an unseen hand, people roused themselves from collective despondency and took their private grief onto the streets of London. Every place associated with the lady they loved became a shrine. The great flood of emotion which swelled up and flowed into every corner of the kingdom eventually reached the gates of Balmoral.

That tide of inchoate sorrow was so powerful that it could not but summon up memories of past conflicts between the dead Princess and the House of Windsor. All who had sympathised with Diana in life now expected some gesture of compassion, of reconciliation beyond the grave. For a brief moment it seemed as though the Royal Family were deaf to these well-intentioned, if sometimes irreverently expressed, entreaties particularly of the younger generation. Instead of urging the Queen to use the monarchy's potent symbolism to anticipate events, some courtiers urged a purely reactive policy. Had the Queen and the Prince of Wales hesitated much longer, there was a real danger that public sorrow might turn to resentment or wrath. Fortunately the Sovereign seems for once to have deferred to her heir. Prince Charles may have sensed that his prospects as King depended on the Royal Family modifying the stoic impassivity which had served so well in time of war.

However it came about, the display of royal *glasnost* over the past three days has transformed an ominous mood into one of relief. Last night's broadcast by the Queen was a gracious gesture both to her departed daughter-in-law and to her subjects. It was all the more impressive for being live: a precedent which the Queen and future monarchs would do well to follow. The return of Prince William and Prince Harry to take private leave of their mother in the Chapel Royal will have softened the hardest republican heart. The Princes and their father deserve gratitude for choosing to share this most poignant moment of truth with their fellow mourners outside St James's Palace.

Now that the Royal Family is reunited in the capital, it is time to place the debate about the monarchy temporarily aside. The House of Windsor has implicitly acknowledged the rights and opinions of the people in a matter which concerns both deeply. In the weeks and months to come it will become clear whether the impact of this week's trauma has been to weaken the institution of monarchy or whether a new bond has been forged between Queen and country. Today, though, the nation will wish to remember the woman for whose sake it has gathered together in homage. How should we bid farewell forever to her?

Diana was neither saint nor martyr. But she was touched by a kind of greatness. Without that divine spark, her magnetism, which exceeded that of all her contemporaries, would be inexplicable. Her loveliness — rendered more intense by the shyness and vulnerability which never left her — was a vital part of her appeal; no less important was her character. Misfortune steeled her from birth. An aristocrat and a star, she could be, on occasion, proud and capricious. Life at court taught her to be suspicious of everybody: because she was betrayed by many she thought of as insiders, she sought companionship and eventually love among outsiders. She also discovered, especially during and after her marriage broke down, an inner resilience which sustained her through dark times when the black dog snapped at her heels.

Like any strong character, she had powerful aversions. If latterly she sometimes seemed to reject the attitudes of those to whom she belonged by birth and marriage, she was no less angry when it seemed to reject her. The iron in her soul was, however, never corrosive. As the years went by, she learnt to concentrate on her talent for empathy, not only with the suffering masses but also with individuals.

Much has been and will be written about Diana's good works. It is right that charity workers should predominate in her cortège, right too that she should be cherished most of all by the sick, the maimed, the outcasts, the beggars. Some will go further, and say that all the expense of today's funeral, and the countless sums spent this week on flowers in her honour, would have been better spent on charity. We doubt whether that would have been her wish. More likely she would have identified with the story St John the Evangelist tells of Mary, sister of Martha and of Lazarus, who anointed the feet of Jesus with costly ointment of spikenard, and wiped his feet with her hair. When Judas protested that the precious perfume should have been sold to raise alms for the poor, Jesus answered: "Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always."

What of the funeral itself? There has been universal praise for the order of service. That praise is warranted, all the more so because there were many pitfalls to be avoided. This is, after all, no longer a purely Christian country, nor did Diana belong solely to her own compatriots: she was a true citizen of the world. So it was important to let her funeral embrace those of all faiths and of none, while in no way compromising its Christian, and specifically Anglican, spirituality.

The service is punctuated and framed by the language of the Book of Common Prayer. Though the words derive from Thomas Cranmer, they incorporate more ancient ideas that precede the Reformation. In their universality, these prayers transcend all that is sectarian. With their echoes of Old Testament and New, they embrace the whole Judaeo-Christian tradition. When combined with the glory of English choral music, they will convey something of our history to the ends of the earth. A gesture to Roman Catholics is the inclusion of the *Libera me* from one of the most awe-inspiring settings of the requiem mass, Verdi's. Diana loved this music; we can only guess why. The medieval verses by Thomas de Celano which evoke so vividly the day of judgment, *dies magna et amara valde*, should remind us that no human judgment passed on the Princess can ever be final. Central to the ceremony are the words which remain among the most familiar in the English language: the prayer which Jesus taught us.

> "In the weeks to come it will be clear whether the impact of this trauma has been to weaken the monarchy or whether a new bond has been forged between queen and country. Today the nation remembers the woman for whose sake it has gathered together in homage and to bid farewell"

Such hallowed ritual can well afford to be interspersed with informal elements, even if they are not conventionally religious. Elton John's song *Candle in the Wind* is appropriate, for all its sentimentality (which some may think mawkish), both because the Princess would have liked it, and because the improvisatory nature of popular music allows it to be rewritten for the occasion. There is a place in any funeral for the ephemeral as well as the eternal. And it is as well to reflect that even the oldest religious traditions are young in the sight of God.

This funeral also embodies a robust patriotism, expressed variously in the Englishness of "Nimrod" from Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and *I vow to thee, my country*, the Welshness of *Guide me, O thou great Redeemer*, the Irishness of the *Air from County Derry*, and the Britishness of the National Anthem. These hymns are the inheritance of every citizen of the United Kingdom. The Princess was a patriot, but one of a very modern stamp: she knew how to make immigrants from every ethnic background, and especially their children, feel that they belonged here, that they too were British. It was in this respect that her charitable work and that of Prince Charles complemented one another best: she, like him, found Muslims anything but alien. Far from detracting from the high solemnity of the day, this patriotism is another means of binding up the wounds of a traumatised people. Hymns are the vocal expression of our nationhood, and when several million voices sing out this morning across the land, it will be the audible proof that she did not live in vain.

There will inevitably be much discussion of the propriety of the Spencer family's siting the Princess's grave in the private grounds at Althorp. Given Earl Spencer's angry comments earlier this week about the press, any advice offered to him may be counter-productive. Yet it is not too late to reconsider. What must be assumes to be the decision of a bereaved brother will inevitably be seen as premature, not merely by the media, but also by the millions who mourn his sister. However embittered he is by bad experiences at the hands of paparazzi, the Earl will not wish to compromise public sympathy for his family. Access to the tomb of this most modern heroine must be open. Diana belongs to all.

What should be the Princess's epitaph? One of our earliest royal epitaphs is that of Ethelburga, Queen of the West Saxons, who died in circa AD 617. It concludes: "I travell'd, here I lie; Liv'd in the World, that to the World now die." To do justice to Diana, lines less melancholy, but no less paradoxical and elegiac, will be needed. Diana is dear to us not least because she has given the British a reason to believe that they can again do remarkable things — that they have something unique to give to humanity. Politicians can occasionally convey that sense of service to the world: Churchill certainly achieved this, as for a while did Margaret Thatcher; Tony Blair looks likely to emulate them. But there is a plane above that of politics, a spiritual sphere whence a rare individual can inspire a nation. Diana could do what no politician could do: reach out to the underdogs, to those who thought they had nothing to lose and show them that they had everything to gain. When even a figure such as Mother Teresa, the most revered woman of her time, saw such potential for good, such grace and generosity in Diana, it is clear that the world has sustained an irreparable loss.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Shock, hysteria or people's yearning?

From Mr Toby Kempster

Sir, The level of shock and strength of feeling over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has clearly taken a great many people, including the media, by surprise. However, is there not a danger in the media taking up the public mood of becoming judgmental about those who are not openly manifesting a sense of grief?

Everyone will have recognised a tragic loss of young lives in wretched circumstances on Sunday morning, but we do not all feel a sense of personal loss or grief. While Diana's death is, therefore, quite properly being marked by a public funeral, it would be unfortunate if to be seen out and about on Saturday otherwise than in a state of mourning were to lead to instant condemnation.

The Somerfield supermarket chain, for example, has been forced by public pressure to close its stores on Saturday morning, despite the fact that all profits were to go to the Red Cross anti-landmines charity. Further, there are demands that the Chief Executive to the Scottish Football Association resign as a result of his misjudging or failing to mirror the public sense of grief.

Despite the legitimate concerns over media intrusion into Diana's private life and the involvement of such intrusions in her death, have we not already seen inappropriate inquiries and intrusions being made into what is surely a very private and difficult moment for the Royal Family? It seems to have been forgotten that they after all organised the public funeral for a Saturday morning so as to ensure that as many people as possible could witness the funeral procession.

For a nation apparently united in grief last Sunday it is sad that divisions are already beginning to appear, in what is in danger of becoming a witchhunt of those not publicly grieving.

Yours faithfully,
TOBY KEMPSTER,
Old Square Chambers,
Hanover House,
47 Corn Street, Bristol.
September 5.

From the Reverend Peter Townley

Sir, Ministering to somebody's grief is a world away from pandering to self-indulgence and hysteria.

What we have witnessed this week is media-managed mourning, which has hardly been altogether healthy.

At no point have we been encouraged to stop and reflect upon what all this says to us about the spiritual yearning and poverty of our nation as a whole. This is the issue that needs to be tackled by us all.

Yours,
P. K. TOWNLEY,
St Mary-le-Tower Vicarage,
8 Fonnerreau Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.
September 5.

From Mr B. G. Birkhead

Sir, It is hard to explain how individuals who had never met the Princess, let alone had a chance to become acquainted with her other than through the imperfect medium of the press, can experience grief on a scale that seems to equate to (and ostensibly exceed in some cases) that of losing a member of one's own close family.

I have tried, and failed, to put myself, for example, in the mind of someone who will wait for hours in a queue to sign a book of condolences, when silent prayer will effect all but the visibility of the expression. I also wonder at the near martyrdom of the Princess perpetrated by a press that persecuted her whilst she was alive.

There is perhaps a sense in which the public feels it *ought* to behave in this way, and many are fulfilling this expectation. There may also be some subconscious expression of disapproval of the monarchy in such demonstrations. Whatever the reasons, I doubt that they constitute genuine grief.

As far as the press are concerned, guilt must surely tinge their eulogies.

There is something unhealthy about what we are witnessing. A sense of proportion and realism has been lost.

Yours,
BRIAN G. BIRKHEAD,
Osprey House,
Friary Road, Ascot, Berkshire.
September 5.

From Mr Kenneth Stern

Sir, Much of the reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has gone beyond what is reasonable to the point of hysteria, fuelled by a press which, after a couple of days, has returned to its habitual irresponsibility.

I am especially appalled by the media attacks on the Royal Family. These are people who have devoted lifetimes to the service of the nation and of countless charities, usually without the glare of publicity which the late Princess seemed to invite. Why should they appear in public at this time to satisfy the demands of the insensitively curious?

I hope that after Saturday's ceremonies the nation will quickly recover its sense of balance.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH STERN,
555 Park West, Edgware Road, W2.
September 4.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Call for Parliament to act on privacy

From Mr Malcolm Wicks, MP for Croydon North (Labour)

Sir, Following the Paris tragedy and public revulsion against the media's role, the fight back by the tabloids and their (temporarily embarrassed) apologists is well under way. To thwart the introduction of privacy laws numerous reasons are being advanced in favour of inaction.

We are assured that, if British editors did not write their cheques for these photographs, others elsewhere, in Europe or the US, would do so. Thus Britain, by implication, must conform to the lowest common denominator of international morality.

It has also been suggested that it is not only the media but the readers who should share the blame, for it is the public that has the appetite for these things: so what is an ethical tabloid editor to do? Surely this not only negates any notion of individual responsibility, let alone leadership, but is similar to arguing that public executions should never have been banned because there was always a crowd.

Then we are told that it is, in any case, technically and legally impossible to ban this material. The public is asked to believe that its decent instinct, that intrusive photographs of individuals should not be published, cannot be translated into law.

If all these arguments fail, I suspect we will be directed from lofty heights to believe that any curtailment of the media will disturb their heroic mission to unearth corruption and tyranny, as if Parliament is not capable of legislating for both a freedom of information Act and a privacy Act.

Finally the chestnut of self-regulation will be dusted down and paraded. The Press Complaints Commission, which I would describe as a wholly owned subsidiary of the media, may well vie for the title of Britain's most supine public body, occasionally huffing and puffing, but wholly discredited in many eyes.

A number of proprietors, editors, columnists and paparazzi themselves may try to dominate the public debate in defence of their financial interests. In the opposing corner will be public opinion that cries out for a greater decency, and simply cannot stomach the thought of photographers clambering on to the mangled car of the dead and dying.

I believe that Parliament must listen to the people.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM WICKS,
House of Commons.
September 4.

Intrusion and the law

From Mr S. Gratwick, QC

Sir, I do not believe that a law of privacy aimed at restraining the activities of the paparazzi, or of any media employee, would not be effective. To be effective it must be directed against the source of the funds which makes unreasonable intrusions profitable: in other words, the publisher.

Simon Jenkins ("No law could have shielded her", September 1) appears to be taking the view that if perfection cannot be achieved nothing should be done; and that nothing should be done if it cannot be effective world wide. It is true that many members of the public are voyeurs. But many of us are not and believe that such as Diana should be left in privacy when not obviously, and voluntarily, "on parade".

He writes of the difficulty of defining the criteria by which to distinguish publication which is justified by the public position of the person involved from that which is not. Merely to state the requirement in those words may prove sufficient if, as with libel, the issue is left to a jury. As an issue it is no less capable of being decided by a jury than "hatred, ridicule or contempt". The risk of failure should not prevent the attempt being made.

It should simply be provided that an action will lie against any publisher who publishes in breach of that requirement, and the jury should be given power to award unlimited damages. As with defamation, a body of case law would be built up.

If the publishers fear for their wallets they will be careful what they publish. If the paparazzi have no market, they will find something else to do. In order to protect those who cannot afford to litigate such an action could be made one supportable by legal aid.

Such a provision would not directly inhibit intrusive activities abroad, but it would exclude the UK market and might even lead to the development of similar protection of privacy elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
S. GRATWICK,
Greenmantle,
Parkfield, Sevenoaks, Kent.
September 1.

From Mr Paul Connew

Sir, Hard cases make bad law. A cliché, but true nonetheless.

The outpouring of anti-media feeling in the wake of last weekend's tragic events in Paris is as inevitable as it is understandable. Let us not pretend, however, that any privacy law conceived in the emotion-charged aftermath of Princess Diana's untimely death could be anything but deeply flawed. Beware politicians, and others, seeking to capitalise on a nation's grief with posthumous justification for such legislation. Making the People's Princess the means of restricting the people's right to know would be to do her a grave injustice.

Let us not forget, either, the tragic death of the companion who had brought her great happiness in recent weeks, Dodi Fayed. By the cruellest irony it was his father who performed a public service in exposing the corruption and venality of certain politicians. Draconian privacy laws would almost certainly have prevented him, or newspapers, from performing that service and left the electorate in the dark.

The truth is, framing privacy laws that properly protect prominent figures and ordinary citizens while simultaneously protecting genuine investigative journalism (whether by broadsheet, tabloid, or television) would require the judgment of someone wiser than Solomon. It is no coincidence that France, with the world's toughest privacy laws, has spawned the most ruthless of the paparazzi.

In the difficult days ahead, there is a great deal of soul-searching to be conducted by both the media and the public. The legacy of this awful week could yet prove to be the natural evolution of a system of checks and balances between the media and the public at large.

A far, far better memorial to a much-loved and media-wise Princess than sending for the legislators.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CONNEW
(Deputy Editor, *News of the World*, 1989-93; Deputy Editor, *Daily Mirror*, 1993-95; Executive Editor, *Sunday Mirror*, 1995-96).
34 Dorset Square, NW1.
September 2.

Dignity of sorrow borne in silence

From Lady Lowry, QC

Sir, My generation remember a shy young Princess broadcasting to the Commonwealth on her twenty-first birthday, promising to dedicate her whole life to her people and asking for their help to fulfil this promise.

Through sorrow and joy Her Majesty has kept that promise. At this most difficult time have we not failed her by not understanding how her generation was taught to bear grief with dignity in silence?

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA CALVERT,
158 Ashley Gardens,
Thirleby Road, SW1.
September 5.

A little distance

From Mr Bruce Andrews

Sir, The death of Princess Diana is profoundly tragic but the response of the press, and through the press the public, is overblown and ephemeral.

It is sad that the Royal Family should succumb to pressure with hasty departures from tradition. It is the essence of our royalty that it should be a little distant, a little different from other mortals. Royal tradition should only be abandoned after slow and careful consideration.

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE ANDREWS,
4 Watford Close, Guildford, Surrey.
September 5.

From Mr Christopher Blum

Sir, One of the most common reasons given for the outpouring of national grief over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is that "we feel we actually knew her". It is a bitter irony that the reason that many of us feel this is almost entirely due to the enormous amount of press intrusion into every aspect of her life.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BLUM,
218 Ladbroke Grove, W10.

Floral tribute

From Sister Julian Falkus, OSB

Sir, Of course the money spent on flowers in remembrance of Princess Diana could have been given to charity, as Peter Rushforth suggests (letter, September 3), but flowers are *the* sign of love. I refer Mr Rushforth to Mary of Bethany, who poured out a huge amount of priceless ointment over Christ before his death. She was to be remembered for this for all time (John xii, 1-8). The scent filled the entire house, just as the beauty and scent of those flowers must fill the air.

There will always be charities to support but only this chance to show such a tangible sign of corporate love.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN FALKUS,
St Mary's Abbey, Stanbrook,
Callow End, Worcestershire.

Sunday observance

From Mr Rhodri Howell

Sir, It is a sad reflection on our society today that so many high street shops will be closing for Diana on Saturday, but not for God on Sunday.

Yours faithfully,
RHODRI HOWELL,
32 Northampton Street, Cambridge.
rall006@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Thoughts on a solid and lasting tribute to the Princess

From Mr A. I. C. Black

Sir, The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund is only a partial solution, as it has no physical presence by which people may remember her.

I would like to see a Garden of Remembrance, which all could visit and which would commemorate the good causes which she made her own.

The location for such a garden seems ready made: Hyde Park. The area of the park near Speaker's Corner would benefit enormously from a feature such as this.

It would be a permanent reminder, not least for the Princes, of the affection that their mother commanded from the people.

Yours faithfully,
A. I. C. BLACK,
18 Bridle Road,
Shirley, Croydon, Surrey.
September 3.

From Sir Hugh Leggatt

Sir, May I suggest that the Government should commission a statue of Diana, Princess of Wales, on the advice of the National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Fine Art Commission.

It could perhaps be erected in the Green Park and subscriptions should be limited to £10 per person.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT,
21 Rue du Lac,
CH-1800, Vevey, Switzerland.
September 3.

From Mr Patrick Grattan

Sir, These last few days, with The Mall and Constitution Hill closed, it has been a magnificent sight to see thousands of people on foot enjoying the united space of St James's Park, The Mall and Green Park.

Perhaps it would be a fitting response to make them, with Birdcage Walk and Horse Guards Road, permanently closed to traffic. At a stroke it would create as fine a large central open space as any in the world, surrounded by great buildings, to the benefit of London, Londoners and visitors.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK GRATTAN,
12 Woodstock Road, W4.
September 3.

From Mr John B. D. Armstrong

Sir, The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund could be used to commission a replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, to be named *The Princess Diana*.

The Princess has been described by many as the United Kingdom's greatest asset. What better way to perpetuate her memory than a magnificent vessel dedicated to her visiting all parts of the kingdom and, in time, the world.

It would also be fitting for Prince William eventually to visit his subjects in a vessel bearing his mother's name.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN B. D. ARMSTRONG,
Rockhaven,
7 Brompton Road, Bangor, Co Down.
September 4.

From Mr John Wilbraham

Sir, If the Victoria Cross can be awarded posthumously for valour, why can't the Order of Merit be awarded posthumously?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WILBRAHAM,
West Cottingwith Hall,
Thorganby, North Yorkshire.
September 4.

From Mrs Ann Harris

Sir, Why not rename Kensington Gardens the Princess of Wales Gardens? Perhaps this would also be an appropriate setting for a statue.

Yours faithfully,
ANN HARRIS,
Blue Waters, The Glebe,
Studland, Swanage, Dorset.
September 4.

From Mr George Hartshorn

Sir, Forget the plastic Millenium Dome, and use the £750 million to fund a Diana Spencer Memorial Hospice Trust, whose first action could be to buy the uninhabited Althorp House and convert it into the world's finest hospice — the first of several around the UK.

Such a tribute would be a fitting start to a new caring century, and we could at least finish the old one with hope.

Regards,
P. G. HARTSHORN,
Appledown, Church Hill,
Badby, Daventry, Northamptonshire.
hartshorn@radstone.co.uk

From Mr Russell Twisk

Sir, Perhaps an appropriate way to recognise the international impact of Diana, Princess of Wales, would be to rename London's Heathrow Airport after her.

There are many precedents for naming airports after outstanding individuals in her beloved America, including Kennedy and Dulles, as well as Charles de Gaulle in the city where she died.

Yours etc,
RUSSELL TWISK,
The Old Barn, East Harting,
Nr Petersfield, Hampshire.

SOCIAL NEWS

Lincolnshire Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants for Lincolnshire:

Mr D.K. Baker; Lady Benton Jones; Lady Bruce-Gardyne; Mr R.J. Epton; Mr J.F. Fane; Mr F.A. Flear; Major-General R.E.J. Gerrard-Wright; Mrs V.M. Pettifer; Mrs. Z.M Scoley; Mr A.A.F. Terry; Brigadier E.J.W. Walker.

Legal appointments

Mr Lawrence Antony Collins, QC, and Mr Arthur Leslie Marriott, QC, have been authorised by the Lord Chancellor to sit as Deputy high Court Judges with immediate effect. They are the first solicitors to be so authorised.

Dinner

English-Speaking Union

Sir Richard Eyre, Director of the Royal National Theatre, was the guest of honour and speaker at the opening dinner of the English-Speaking Union's 1997 Cultural Seminar held last night at Dartmouth House. Baroness Brigstocke, chairman, presided.

Appointments

The Rev Michael H. Taylor, Director of Christian Aid, to be President of the Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham from January 1, 1988.

Mr Christopher Brown, Headmaster of Norwich School, has become Chairman of the Choir Schools' Association, in succession to Mr John Baxter, Headmaster of Wells Cathedral School.

School news

Epsom College

The Michaelmas Term begins on Sunday, September 7, with 660 pupils at the College. We welcome the second year of girls starting at 13, as the College moves to full co-education. Mr Michael Horrocks-Taylor takes over as Housemaster of Carr House on the retirement of Mr Eric Huxter, and Mr Graeme Lodge as Housemaster of Crawfurd House, on the retirement of Mr Keith Douglas. The new statue of St Luke will be dedicated by the Bishop of Winchester on Saturday, November 29. The Head of School for the term will be Giles Tongue.

Heathfield School, Ascot

Term begins today at Heathfield with Zoe Firmin as Head Girl and Viktoria Lewis as Deputy Head Girl. Major Academic Scholarships for VIth Form 'A' Level studies have been awarded to Venetia Welby and Francesca Yarde Buller. The VIth Form Art Scholar is Marumi Nakamura. A VIth Form Science Exhibition has been awarded to Zoe Firmin and a VIth Form Modern Languages Exhibition to Emily Sandys. An Academic Exhibition on entry to Form I has been awarded to Emily Paterson-Morgan (Garden House, London) and an Art Scholarship to Natapa Sriyuksiri (Godstowe School, Buckinghamshire). Assessment Day for September 1998 entrants will take place on Saturday, October 18. Further details may be obtained from the Registrar (01344 882955). Enquiries for entry to the Sixth Form in September 1998 should also be made to the Registrar. There will be performances in school of *Lark Rise* on November 19, 20, 21 and 22, at 7.45pm. St Nicholas' Stalls will be held in the Sports Hall on Saturday, November 29, from 1.30pm. Parents, Old Girls and friends of the school are very welcome to attend.

King's, Bruton

Term starts at King's School on Monday, September 8. Daniel Britten (All Hallows School) is Head of School. Mr J. Roebuck is Housemaster of New House. Mrs Mary Tyndall will officially open Arion, the new Junior Girls House, at 2.00pm on Friday, October 3. An Open Day will be held on Saturday, October 4. The Bishop of Bath and Wells will take the Confirmation Service on Saturday, November 15. Term ends with the Carol Service on Friday, December 12.

Terra Nova School

Terra Nova celebrates the 100th Anniversary of its foundation in September 1997. Regular events throughout the academic year will mark the Centenary which will terminate with a Ball to be held at the school on Friday, July 10, 1998. Any old Terra Novans, parents, friends or associates who would like a programme of events are invited to contact The Headmaster, Robin Lewis at Terra Nova School, Jodrell Bank, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 8BT. Tel: 01477 571251, Fax: 01477 571646. Email: terranova@argonet.co.uk

Whitgift School

Michaelmas Term began on September 3 and ends on December 12. Mr Michael Gibbons joins the staff as Second Master. Jonathan Wordsworth is the Captain of School. Open Morning for prospective parents is on Saturday, October 11, from 10.00am to 12.30pm. The London Mozart Players, Whitgift Associate Musicians, will hold a Masterclass for Brass on September 23. Julian Bream will be performing in Big School on Saturday, November 8, at 7.30pm (tickets available from the School Office). *Guys & Dolls* will be performed on December 4-6. For details of Arts Events please telephone 0181 688 9222. Whitgift School is a registered charity (No 312612).

Anniversaries

TODAY

BIRTHS: Marie-Joseph, Marquis de Lafayette, statesman and soldier, Chavagnac, France, 1757; John Dalton, chemist and physicist, Eaglesfield, Cumbria, 1766; Sir Walford Davies, composer, Oswestry, Shropshire, 1869; John James Macleod, physiologist, pioneer of insulin, Nobel laureate 1923, New Clunie, Tayside, 1876; Sir Edward Appleton, physicist, Nobel laureate 1947, Bradford, 1892.

DEATHS: Jean Baptiste Colbert, statesman, Paris, 1683; George Alexander Stevens, dramatist and song writer, Baldock, Hertfordshire, 1784; King James II, reigned 1685-88, St Germains, France, 1701; Arthur Rackham, illustrator, Surrey, 1939; Gertrude Lawrence, actress, New York, 1952; Hendrik Verwoerd, President of South Africa 1958-66, assassinated, Cape Town, 1966.

The Great Fire of London was finally extinguished, 1666.

The first British telephone exchange opened in Lombard Street, London, 1879.

The kingdom of Swaziland in Southern Africa gained its independence, 1968.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Queen Elizabeth I, reigned 1558-1603, Greenwich Palace, 1533; Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Winchester 1869-73, Clapham, 1805; William Butterfield, architect, London, 1814; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister 1905-08, Glasgow, 1836; Dame Edith Sitwell, poet, Scarborough, 1887; Simon Marks, Baron Marks of Broughton, retail trade leader, Leeds, 1888; Laura Ashley, designer, Merthyr Tydfil, 1925; Buddy Holly, singer and songwriter, Lubbock, Texas, 1936.

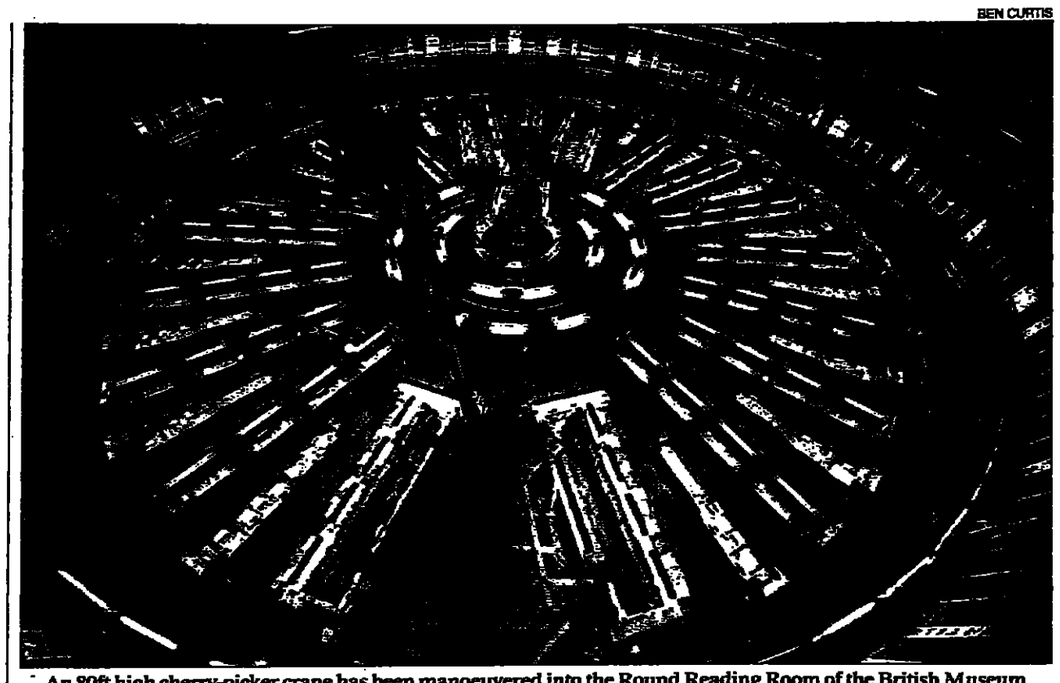
DEATHS: Catherine Parr, sixth wife of King Henry VIII, Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire, 1548; William Holman Hunt, painter, member of the pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, London, 1910; C.B. Fry, sportsman, London, 1956.

The Russians were defeated by Napoleon's forces at the Battle of Borodino, 1812.

Grace Darling and her father rescued survivors of the steamer *Forfarshire* off the Farne Islands, 1838.

Church services are on the Faith page in the Weekend section (Page 16)

BEN CURTIS



An 80ft high cherry-picker crane has been manoeuvered into the Round Reading Room of the British Museum so that experts can investigate the techniques and materials used to build it in 1857. This picture, giving a bird's-eye view of the room, was taken from it. The reading room is to be restored to as near its original appearance as possible, as part of the museum's Great Court project, to be completed in the year 2000. The dome of the room has a diameter of 140ft, larger than St Paul's Cathedral or St Peter's, Rome

Looted Kabul treasures will be returned

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

UNIQUE antiquities from the looted Kabul museum in Afghanistan have been recovered by a cultural organisation in neighbouring Pakistan. They will be returned to Kabul when stability returns and the museum is rebuilt.

Among the objects recovered are six classical plaster medallions, part of the legacy of Alexander the Great in Central Asia, and stone seals documenting trade 4,000 years ago. They have been acquired by the Society for the Preservation of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage (SPACH), set up by Nancy Dupree, an archaeologists who spent many years in Kabul.

"Kabul Museum used to have about 50 plaster medallions, taken from the central discs of classical Greek silver salvers. They were part of the Begram Treasure, found in 1939 at the summer capital of King Kanishka, a Kushan monarch of the 2nd century AD," Ms Dupree said. Begram is 35 miles north of Kabul, and its air base has been the scene of bitter fighting.

"Many of the Hellenistic and early Roman originals of these plaster replicas have never been found: the plasters were made in the 1st century AD as a way of replicating Mediterranean silverware in Central Asia," said Ms Dupree, adding that they had been recovered "after several months of hard bargining".

The Pakistani city of Peshawar, at the south end of the Khyber Pass, is the centre of the trade in archaeological objects smuggled out of Afghanistan. Among the other objects recovered were two stone seals, originally excavated at Shortugai on the Oxus (Amu-Darya) river on the borders of the former Soviet Union.

"The Shortugai seal provides rare material evidence of trade between northern Afghanistan and the Harappan civilisation," Ms Dupree said.

Both genuine and forged Bactrian documents, the former looted from ancient sites in northern Afghanistan, have appeared on the London antiquities market, according to Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams of London University.

Weekend birthdays

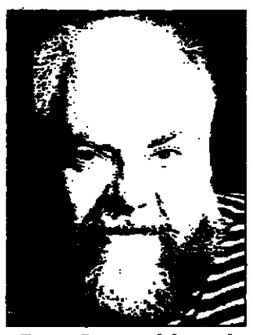
TODAY:

The Right Rev John Bickersteth, former Bishop of Bath and Wells, 76; Mr B.G. Booth, Vice-Chancellor, University of Central Lancashire, 55; Mr Sherban Cantacuzino, former secretary, Royal Fine Art Commission, 69; Sir Derman Christopherson, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Durham University, 82.

Mr Tim Henman, tennis player, 23; Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, former chairman, London Stock Exchange, 66; Sir John Johnson, former chairman, Countryside Commission and former diplomat, 67; Mr Roger Knight, secretary, MCC, 51; Sir Colin McColl, former diplomat, 65; Mr George Mann, former chairman, TCCB, 80; Miss Monica Mason, ballerina, 56; Lord O'Hagan, 52; Sir Peter Pain, former High Court judge, 84; Sir James Stubblefield, FRS, geologist, 96; Mr J.R.C. Young, former rugby player and former chief executive Securities and Investments Board, 60.

TOMORROW:

Mr John Baxter, Head Master, Wells Cathedral School, 58; Major Sir William Wrixon-Becher, 82; Professor Malcolm Bradbury, novelist, 65; Lord Charteris of Amisfield, 84; Mr Kevin Curran, cricketer, 38; Mr J. Paul Getty, II, KBE, philanthropist, 65; Mr Peter Gill, stage director, 58; Mr Christopher Green, former chief executive, English Heritage, 54; Miss M.G. Hampshire, former Principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 79; Miss Dianne Hayter, former chief executive, European Parliamentary Labour Party, 48; Lord Jenkin of Roding, 71; Mr Elia Kazan, author, producer and director, 88; Mr Justice Ian Kennedy, 67.



Roger Law, satirist and puppeteer, is 56 today

The Marquess of Londonderry, 60; Sir Douglas Lovelock, former chairman, HM Board of Customs and Excise, 74; Professor Sir Brian Pippard, FRS, physicist, 77; Mr Gordon Richards, racehorse trainer, 67; Mr Michael Robbins, former president, Society of Antiquaries of London, 82; Sir Neil Shields, former chairman, Commission for the New Towns, 78; Judge A. Simmons, 61; Mr Andrew Stone, joint managing director, Marks & Spencer, 55; Air Marshal Sir John Whitley, 92; Mr Bruce Yardley, cricketer, 50.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Christine Challenger, Chaplain (part-time NSM), South Tees Community and Mental Health NHS Trust (York); to be Vicar of Middlesbrough, St Chad (same diocese).

The Rev Valerie Clarke, Assistant Curate, Sherburn-in-Elmet (York); to be Assistant Curate within the Brayton Team Ministry, with special responsibility for Thorpe Willoughby (same diocese).

The Rev Brian Chave, Bishop s Staff Officer and Diocesan Communications Officer (Hereford); to be also Non-Residentiary Canon and Prebendary de Moreton Magna of Hereford Cathedral.

The Rev Colin Cheeseman, Chaplain, HM Prison, Wealston (York); to be Priest-in-Charge, Tockwith and Bilton with Bickerton (same diocese).

The Rev Richard Clarkson, Assistant Curate, Sunnyside with Bourne End (St Albans); to be also Rural Dean of Berkhamsted (same diocese).

The Rev John Clasper, Team Rector, East Darlington Team (Durham); to be Vicar, Fenham, St James and St Basil, (Newcastle).

The Rev Robin Davill, Assistant Curate (NSM), Crayke w Brandsby and Yearsley (York); to be half-time stipendiary Priest-in-Charge of the benefice (same diocese).

The Rev Paul Griffiths, Priest-in-Charge of Tollerton, St Peter, Chaplain to the Boots Company and Chaplain to Central Television (Southwell); to be also Diocesan Adviser on Industrial Society (same diocese).

The Rev Richard Hayes, Senior Curate, Downend, Christ Church (Bristol); to be Vicar, Gravesend, St Mary (Rochester).

The Rev William Hedley, Vicar, Norton (York); to be Curate, Newburn with special responsibility for Throckley (Newcastle).

Canon Paul Jobson, Vicar, Seaham w Seaham Harbour (Durham); to be Vicar, Pimlico, St Saviour's (London).

The Rev Nicholas Jones, Curate, Cambridge, Holy Trinity (Ely); to be Group Vicar, Fulbourn w Great Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom and also Chaplain, St Bede s School, Cambridge (same diocese)

The Rev Dian Leppington, Industrial Chaplain (Ripon); to be Chaplain, University of Teesside (York)

The Rev David Ritchie, Team Vicar, Becontree West Team Ministry (Chelmsford); to be Team Rector of the Becontree West Team Ministry (same diocese).

The Rev Dr John Parr, Priest-in-Charge, Harston w Hauxton (Ely); to be also Priest in Charge of Newton (same diocese).

The Rev Dr Ronald Saunders, Chaplain, Morden College, Blackheath, London (Southwark); to be Master of Wyggeston's Hospital, Leicester (Leicester).

The Rev William Scott, Vicar, St Mary s, Bourne Street (London); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Pimlico, St Barnabas (same diocese).

The Rev David Shepherd, Vicar, Leasowe (Chester); to be Vicar, Oxhey St Matthew (St Albans)

The Rev Gillian South, Curate, Morpeth (Newcastle); to be Vicar, Amble (same diocese).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.M. Banks and Miss S.J. Bryan

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of the Revd Canon and Mrs M.T.H. Banks, of Leicester, and Sophie, daughter of Captain and Mrs Peter Bryan, of Walberton, West Sussex.

Dr A.C.W. Duncan and Miss E.F. Wooller

The engagement is announced between Alexander, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Alan Duncan, of Beckenham, Kent, and Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr David Wooller and the late Mrs Eleanor Wooller, of Bingley, Yorkshire.

Mr I. Snell and Miss S. Elderkin

The engagement is announced between Ivan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Francis Snell, of Hayling Island, and Sue, daughter of the late Mr Ian Elderkin and of Mrs Pam Elderkin, of Kings Langley.

Mr A.J. Strong and Miss L.M. de Courcy-Ireland

The engagement is announced between Antony, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.A. Strong, of Steyning, West Sussex, and Louisa, daughter of Captain and Mrs H.G. de Courcy-Ireland, of Eastleach, Gloucestershire.

Marriage

Judge P.N.R. Clark and Judge J. Davies

The marriage took place on September 5, between Paul Clark and Jackie Davies, at Kirkby Overblow, North Yorkshire.

Latest wills

Etty Moss, of Wimbledon, London left estate valued at £2,344,494 net.

Anne Arbeid, of London NW4, left estate valued at £1,762,668 net.

She left £5,000 to Hammerson House for the Elderly, Bishops Avenue, London N2, and £1,000 each to Jewish Blind and Physically Handicapped Society, Nightingale House for Aged Jews, MIND, British Empire Cancer Campaign, Jewish Board of Deputies, Leo Baeck College, Jewish Philanthropic Association for Israel and the Middle East and the Anglo Jewish Association.

Douglas Critchley, of London SW19, left estate valued at £1,724,326 net.

He left shares in his residuary estate to such charity or charities as decided by his executors.

Jeanne Clementine Dickinson of Bath, Somerset, left estate valued at £1,088,580 net.

Among her bequests she left £2,000 to the PDSA, and £500 to the Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, and to St John's Roman Catholic Church, South Parade, Bath. She also left shares in her residuary estate to the RSPCA, Bath branch, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Alan Laurence Gibson, of London NW11, left estate valued at £1,104,289 net.

He left £5,000 to St Mark's Church, Hamilton Terrace, NW8, and £2,500 to the National Society for Cancer Relief and Age Concern.

Anthony Philip Hopkins, of London NW8, left estate value at £1,086,436 net.

David Kester-Dodgson, of Ogmore, Brigend, left estate valued at £1,077,385 net.



Bob Hoskins and Cathy Tyson in *Mona Lisa*

Neil Jordan prefers shooting a film to receiving awards

IN AMERICA Neil Jordan's new film, *Mona Lisa*, is doing business as if it is the only movie in town. At the Cannes Film Festival it collared the Best Actor award for its star Bob Hoskins. Without the deliberate and desperate hype which has surrounded the release of some recent movies, it has generated a buzz of universal approval.

Yet the film's success seems to have taken everyone by surprise; not least Hoskins, who was tending his London garden when he was urgently summoned to Cannes, flown out in a private jet and received his prize with soil still lodged under his fingernails.

Writer and director Jordan, at least, is no stranger to accolades. He won the *Guardian* Fiction Prize in 1979 with his first collection of stories, *Night in Tunisia*, and in 1982 his first feature film, *Angel*, made him the *Evening Standard*'s Most Promising Newcomer.

"This is a business where you have to have some measure of success because otherwise people won't give you money," he says. "But fame is a bad thing. It turns you into an idiot." So he shuns, as far as possible, the commercial side of the business, where he is least comfortable. "The best part is just working — shooting the film. I don't feel alive unless I'm working."

Jordan has the anxious look of someone with an imminent dental appointment: it added an expression of vulnerability to the large, generous features of his boyish face. His voice is soft, his accent lyrical and he has a habit of leaving sentences unfinished.

He is reticent about himself. "I was born in Sligo. I was brought up in Dublin. I live in Bray now. I got into movies by accident — most people do." He is 36. Involved in Irish politics and culture (he founded the Irish Writers Co-operative in 1974), he has made an effort to stay in Ireland, though now thinks it might be more practical to move to London or New York.

His first venture into cinema was as creative consultant to John Boorman on *Excalibur*. He made a documentary about it and on the strength of that Channel 4 and the British Film Institute financed *Angel*, a cogent black thriller set against the contemporary Irish tragedy. He went on to make *The Company of Wolves*, from the story by Angela Carter, and after two films was acclaimed as just about the most talented and imaginative young director working in the British cinema. "I was always obsessed by movies but I thought they were made by corporations or gods, not human beings. I never thought I would make them."

Mona Lisa (the title comes from an old Nat King Cole number, used as the theme song), originated from Jordan's desire to make a love story about an extreme situation. "I hadn't seen one that moved me for a long, long time — probably not since *Last Tango in Paris*."

Set in a brilliantly evoked, almost surreal (Buñuelian?) London of plush hotels, strip joints and streetwalkers, the film charts the friendship between the squat ex-con (Hoskins) and the "tall, thin, black tart" (Cathy Tyson) he is employed to drive.

It is an actors' showpiece, and has served to give Jordan, especially in the United States, the reputation of an actor's director . . .

ON THIS DAY

September 6, 1986

Neil Jordan's film Mona Lisa *earned Bob Hoskins the Best Actor award at Cannes Film Festival and brought its creator high praise. Anna Kythreotis interviewed him.*

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Test me, Lord, and try me, putting my heart and mind to the proof; for your constant love is before my eyes and I live by your faithfulness. Psalm 26 : 2,3

BIRTHS

GILL - On August 29th to Sarah (née Vaughan) and Richard, a daughter, Sophie Rebecca.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

CAIN:HEYCOCK - On September 6th, 1947, at St David's Church, Hendy, Carmarthenshire, Captain Dawson Miller (Ken) to Margaret Anne. Present address: Lt. Col. & Mrs D.M. Cain, 26A Western Avenue, Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.

CARTWRIGHT:BRAY - On 6th September 1947 at St Mary's, Hoxsell, Richard Fox Cartwright to Rosemary Magdalen Bray. Present address 5 Old Vicarage Close, Ide, Exeter.

DEATHS

BRIERLEY - Nick. Beloved husband of Millie and father of Helen, Johnny and Rose, much loved by family and many friends, suddenly at home on Monday September 1st 1997. Funeral Service on Tuesday September 9th at St Georges Church, Thriplow at 12 noon. No flowers but donations to National Asthma Campaign may be sent to R. Skeates Funeral Directors, 46 Moorfield Road, Duxford, Cambs. Tel: 01223 833463.

DEATHS

BEAUFORT-JONES - Rev. Michael Dehlontaip Brabaun Beaufort-Jones. He died and lived for that which he believed in. We loved him, Noreen and family.

CHANCE - On Wednesday September 3rd peacefully in hospital, Derek, greatly loved father of Sue, Gilly and Alan and grandfather of Kay, Rowena, Ben and Thomas. Funeral at St Mary's, Funtington at 3pm on Thursday September 11th. No flowers please, but donations if desired to The Stroke Association.

EASTERBROOK - Christopher Laurence Frank on September 1st 1997, suddenly at home in Tolmley St. Martin aged 59 years. Funeral service at Tolmley St. Martin Church, Suffolk on Wednesday September 10th at 11.30am. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired payable to the Golf Foundation, may be sent to Farthing, Singleton & Hastings, 650, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4PW.

FRANKLIN - On 5th September peacefully in her sleep at home after a long struggle with cancer Inge Ruth Franklin of Dwyrans, Shewton, Wiltshire. Adored wife of Brian and much loved mother of Bernard and Britta and sister-of Rolf. Funeral at 12 noon on Thursday 11th September at Rollestons Church, Shrewton. Enquiries to DE. Shergold. 01722 328966.

HOGARTH - Susan Strang, aged 78 years at Asker Farm, Cardross, Dumbartonshire on the 4th September 1997. Service at Cardross Crematorium on 10th September at 1.30pm and afterwards at Muirholm, Cardross.

POWELL - Florence (Mickey) of North Wootton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, formerly of Barnstable, on September 4th 1997, aged 80. Widow of Sven (John), devoted mother of Charles and Astrid and much loved grandmother. Funeral at St Peter's Church, North Wootton on Wednesday, September 10th at 11.30am. Family flowers only, donations for The Friends Butleigh Hospital may be sent to W.J. Trotman Funeral Directors, Ashdene, Commove, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Tel: (01749) 880271.

SEYMOUR - Ursula Diana Duke (née Duke-Woolley) of Standlake, Oxon. Passed away suddenly but peacefully in the J.R. II Hospital, Oxford on 3rd September 1997. Beloved mother of Jackalin Delhaye. Devoted grandmother of Dashiel and Sister to Rosie Shaw. The funeral service will take place at St Mary Magdalen Church, Wiskington, Battle, Sussex on Wednesday September 10th 1997 at 2.30pm. Flowers to the church please or donations if desired for Sobel House Hospice c/o Green & Co. 21 High Street, Eynsham, Oxon OX8 1HE. Tel: 01865 880637.

WILKINS - Jonathan (Jon) died in Sydney, Australia, on Monday September 1st, aged 53. Son of the late Rev. John Wilkes and Joan, husband of Jenni and father of Edwina. Memorial Service at Holy Trinity Church, Hereford, on Sunday September 14th at 4pm. Enquiries to Bayley Brothers, tel: (01432) 272465.

WILSON - Sqn. Ldr. John Carson Wilson MBE (retired) on 2nd September suddenly but peacefully at his home in Birdham, West Sussex aged 80. Dear husband and father of Clare, John, Rodney, Jane and Drew. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium, Tuesday September 9th. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BELL - Philip: born on 6th September 1977; killed tragically with three other young friends by a landmine in Ain Sukhna, Egypt, on 4th May 1986. May their souls rest in perfect peace and may the campaign of the late Diana Princess of Wales to rid the world of all landmines be continued and be eventually successful. Mum and Dad.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOURTH WAY SCHOOL in the living tradition of Gurdjieff & Ouspensky. 0181 347 5363.

V. SALISBURY. Ronnie, 33 years ago we said goodbye. Please write (Winchmoor 36 Beds) or call (76 8217890). Miss Schoolchum.

BIRTHDAYS

GWEN Scotthwell born 6th September 1917. A happy 90th birthday from all her family.

SERVICES

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WANTED

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TREVOR, THOMAS HOULT of 22 Albany, Piccadilly, London W1 died on 29 July 1997 Particulars to The Executor, Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, Private Trust Dept, 22nd Floor, Duncan House, 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield S1 3BG before 6 November 1997

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RICHARDSON RICHARD JOHN of 49 Mountcott College Bosley Road Bramhall Stockport, Cheshire Solicitor (retired), died on 14th August 1997 particulars to CHARLES LUCAS & MARSHALL (Ref:SDD), Solicitors, of 29 Dunkenny Street New Mills, Stockport SK12 4HU, Executors Kenneth Jones, Spencer McMillan & Edwards Phillip Dowell Pleasy, before 15th November 1997

MARSHALL formerly STOREY nee WEBSTER WIDOW LATE OF TELSCOMBE CLIFFS, EAST SUSSEX Died at Royal Sussex County Hospital Brighton on the 19th December 1989 (Estate about £5,000) His of the above named are required to apply to Messrs Wilkes & Co Solicitors of 3 Dane Road, Seaford East Sussex BN25 1LG.

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OBITUARIES

PAUL RUDOLPH



Rudolph in front of the Art and Architecture Building he designed at Yale

Paul Rudolph, American architect, died on August 8 aged 78. He was born on October 10, 1918.

PAUL RUDOLPH belonged to a group of East Coast architects who emerged from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard in the mid-1940s, when it was under the direction of Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus in Germany. Like his fellow students — the most important of whom were I. M. Pei, Philip Johnson and Edward Barnes — Rudolph was a modern architect in the functional tradition, a formalist who sought a strong structural framework to contain dramatic internal spaces.

There were no frills to his architecture, nothing fussy: he wanted buildings that derived their character from the big scale of his country, and which were pure pleasure to use. Detail was reduced to a minimum, concrete and glass were favourite materials, contrasts in solids and voids were vigorously exploited. So striking was his work that for a time after he began practising as an architect he was hailed as a future leader of the Modern movement.

Paul Marvin Rudolph was born in Elkton, Kentucky, the son of a Methodist minister. After a sketchy education, travelling from place to place with his father, he studied architecture for six years, starting at Athens College, Alabama, in 1934, before going on to the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. From there, in 1940, he did a year of professional practice in an architectural firm in Birmingham, Alabama, and then entered the Harvard School of Design in 1941. His education there was interrupted by the war and three years in the Navy, so he did not finally graduate until 1947.

He went immediately into partnership with Ralph Twitchell, whose practice was in Sarasota, Florida. Five years later, however, Rudolph opened his own office there, and soon had so many commissions — for houses, Riverview High School in Sarasota, the Jewett Arts Center in Wellesley, Massachusetts — that there were branches of his practice right down the East Coast.

His gifts for innovation were displayed at the outset in his Florida buildings, especially in the structural sphere. So rapidly did he make a name for himself that he became, in 1958, chairman of Yale University's department of architecture, remaining there until 1965. Although he was an excellent teacher, he later told a friend that the job was "eight completely wasted years".

His reputation had peaked. He was sought after by the media and by publishers, and wrote innumerable articles. On becoming chairman, he was commissioned to design Yale's new Art and Architecture Building, a magnificent work that was finished in 1964 and which established him beyond doubt as an architect of great distinction. This led to a second important project for the university. But this, the married students' dormitory, brought Rudolph up against problems of urban planning for the first time; in the event, he produced a miniature idea for a town, so fascinating that a further wave of commissions followed.

It was, however, a bad time to be the architect of the moment. With the swing against modern architecture — beginning, perhaps, amid the hippy radicalism of the Sixties and culminating in the ascendancy of the Post-Modernists led by Peter Eisenman and Michael Graves — his reputation suffered a downturn. A massive, multipurpose, 60-storey structure which he had been invited to design overlooking the Hudson on Manhattan's West Side came to nothing, as did several other important projects he was offered. Although he continued to do a good deal of work in America and, more particularly, in the Far East, he appeared to have fallen from favour, and his name went into eclipse. His Arts Building at Yale was gutted by fire during the student unrest of 1969.

He was unmarried.

JEFFREY BERNARD



Jeffrey Bernard, the journalist, humorous writer and eponymous hero of a West End hit, died on September 4 aged 65. He was born on May 27, 1932.

"Jeffrey Bernard is not writing this week," says the current *Spectator* ominously. And there will be no more instalments of the tale of his life and legendary unwellness — the largely self-inflicted complaints that made him famous well beyond his Soho prowling ground.

Bernard's love of racing led him to describe himself as "sired by a scenic designer by a theatrical impresario out of an actress. My dam was an opera singer who was by an itinerant pork butcher out of a gypsy." His father was the architect Oliver Bernard, designer of the 1930s Lyons Corner Houses and the entrance to the Strand Palace Hotel. His son, who had washed up in those Corner Houses, lamented that the Strand Palace entrance "is so brilliant it is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. In any other country it would still be outside the Strand Palace."

After prep school, he went on to the Nautical College at Pangbourne, which he disliked, despite showing promise as a swing bowler and discovering three of his lifelong passions: smoking, drinking and gambling.

When he was 14 he first visited Soho with one of his older brothers and added heterosexual sex to his obsessions. His flamboyant good looks assured him of small handouts from homosexuals. His gift for friendships, sometimes stormy and short-lived, further augmented his precarious income. In one of several obituaries he wrote for himself he records "a short, undistinguished spell in the Army from which he was given a medical discharge with his pay-book marked 'mental stability nil'."

He returned to Soho and married his first wife, Anna, in 1951. They separated a few weeks later, and she died in 1957. Later marriages, to Jacki, Jill and Susan, were also dissolved. He was at various times a navvy, a coalminer, a dishwasher, a target in a fairground boxing booth and an assistant film editor. He took other jobs, including a spell as a stagehand at the Old Vic, Covent Garden and other theatres, including the Apollo where his life was later celebrated. He spent a short period acting for Joan Littlewood at Stratford East.

He regarded Soho as his university, and it was to become his principal source of material. He was introduced to journalism by the Canadian writer and poet Elizabeth Smart, who presented him to the editor of the 1960s magazine *Queen*. Originally he wrote about racing from a fresh, witty and iconoclastic point of view. He went on to contribute idiosyncratic turf notes to *Private Eye* and to be a staff member of *The Sporting Life*. He was sacked from that paper when he arrived drunk and incapable of making the after-dinner speech which had been arranged at its instigation. He attributed his collapse to nerves.

Soho and its rich cast — "poets, painters, prostitutes, bookies' runners, bohemians, bums, philosophers, crooks, cranks, Dylan Thomas, Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud, John Minton, Frank Norman, No Nickers Joyce, Sid the Swimmer, Iron Foot Jack, Nina Hamnett, Muriel Belcher" — provided him with his cast. His most famous haunt was the bar of the Coach and Horses, where Norman Balon — "the rudest landlord in London" — became one of his regular targets. His attendance there inspired a series of "Jeff Bin in?" cartoons by Heath, and he was later pointed out as a tourist attraction.

He was also a regular at The French Pub, L'Epicure, Blanchi's, the Colony Club and latterly the Groucho. Here, and on various racecourses, he gathered and distilled sordid tales of excess with a puritan restraint of style which won approval from writers such as Graham Greene, John Osborne and Keith Waterhouse. He had a sharp eye for absurdity and pretension, and no hesitation in exposing them. His theme was the woes of urban life. Two excursions to the country (Suffolk in 1966 and Berkshire in 1978) proved disastrous.

The iniquities of bookmakers, the declining standards of barmaids, the deterioration of old Soho and its invasion by denim-suited advertising executives and producers of television commercials — above all the guile of women and the miseries of drink, two subjects on which he was an acknowledged expert — were constantly featured in his "Low Life" column, which *The Spectator* balanced against the "High Life" observations of Taki (Peter Theodoracopulos). In 1982 their joint work was published under the title *High Life, Low Life*.

Bernard also produced several compilations of his own. He was said to have been commissioned more than once to write an autobiography, but none appeared. Graham Lord published a biography, *Just The One*, in 1992.

Bernard had three brushes with the law, most notably in 1986, when in a *Spectator* article he drew gleeful attention to an illegal book he was running for friends at the Coach and Horses. The police moved in and he was fined £250.

His apotheosis came in 1989, in the form of an entertainment derived by Keith Waterhouse from his life and writings. *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell* — a title based on the apology printed in *The Spectator* whenever his copy failed to arrive — found an ideal interpreter in Peter O'Toole, whose towering comic performance was a revelation. O'Toole himself had not been a stranger to excess, and he had shared some women and many experiences with his subject.

Tom Conti, James Bolam and Dennis Waterman all subsequently played the role. Bernard's delight in this triumph was not unmixed as the Inland Revenue read the reviews and closed in. Then the lease on his Covent Garden flat, in easy walking distance of the Coach and Horses, expired. He moved to Maida Vale, and his dispatches began to suggest a quieter lifestyle. Six weeks before a successful revival of the play, the *Sunday Mirror* published Bernard's enthusiastic account of a performance he claimed to have witnessed. Only afterwards was it pointed out that he had recorded a drunken dream.

His dependence on hospitals was now constant. The body that he had ravaged over the years, and the diabetes which plagued and wasted him to his final skeletal appearance, took their toll.

One leg was amputated, and the other was threatened. His *Spectator* column began to be filled with his battles with doctors, nurses and visitors, and with the home-helps who looked after him in the new high-rise flat he had moved to in Soho, in which he was forced to spend most of his time. He could now make sorties to his old watering holes only when someone offered to push his wheelchair. The devotion of his most regular help, Vera, was warmly and amusingly reported.

In 1996 he published a third collection of essays, *Reach for the Ground: The Downhill Struggle*, and featured in a Channel 4 documentary about his predicament, intercut with scenes from an amateur production of the play.

He now made efforts to curb his drinking and to belie the suggestion that his column was "a suicide note in weekly instalments". He also placed an advertisement in the personal columns of *The Spectator*: "Alcoholic diabetic amputee seeks sympathy f***."

In July 1996 an American magazine commissioned Bernard to write a travel piece about Marrakesh, and he flew out with a nurse. After he fell ill on arrival, they left for home. He was taken off the plane at Casablanca and placed in intensive care.

In the year of his greatest celebrity, it was Bernard's habit to drop into the bar of the Apollo Theatre for a couple of large vodkas with soda during the run of play. Finding him asleep over his drink one night, a relief house manager ordered his expulsion. "You can't do that," said the barmaid. "That's Jeffrey Bernard." "Nonsense," replied the manager, "Jeffrey Bernard's a character up on the stage."

He is survived by a daughter from his third marriage.

JENNY JEGER



Jenny Jeger, political lobbyist, died from cancer on August 29 aged 45. She was born on January 19, 1952.

JENNY JEGER helped to pioneer a new form of political lobbying as a founder of the lobbyists' firm GJW. A loyal Labour Party supporter all her life, she had been an aide to James Callaghan; GJW's other two founders were Wilf Weeks, an aide to Ted Heath, and Andrew Gifford, an aide to David Steel.

While other lobbyists were mostly outsiders trying to break into the inner circle of politics, the GJW partners were insiders whose value to those seeking parliamentary information was obvious. They were young, they were enthusiastic, and they were successful. Seven years after the organisation's formation they sold out to a company headed by Frank Lowe and Sir Tim Bell in a multimillion pound deal.

Jeger was born into the Labour movement. Her father and uncle were MPs, and her aunt by marriage, a former MP, is now in the Upper House as Baroness Jeger.

Jenny Jeger's own introduction to politics came during the 1950s when she was pushed in a pram round her father's constituency at Goole. He had sat previously for Winchester, which he won in 1945 by more than 3,000, overturning a Conservative majority of more than 12,000 — almost as sensational a result as the defeat of Michael Portillo at Southgate in 1997.

Realising, however, that Winchester was always likely to return to its Tory loyalties, Jeger wisely left for the Labour haven of Goole in 1950.

He had been Mayor of Shoreditch and his wife had been an active Fabian. His brother, Dr Santo Jeger, was MP for Holborn and St Pancras South until he died in 1953, when his widow, Lena Jeger, won the subsequent by-election. Jenny Jeger's death means that Lady Jeger becomes the last of this famous Labour dynasty.

Jennifer Anne Jeger was educated at the Lycée Française and Putney High School. She did not go to Oxbridge, but, loyal to her father's old constituency, read politics at Hull. She was at home in the worlds of both politics and business. Her father, who left school at 12, became a rich man and she inherited his business instincts. After working in No 10 during James Callaghan's three years there she proselytised for Labour in the City. She was a founder member of the £1,000 Club, established to raise money for her party, and she helped to found its Industry Forum.

When John Smith was Shadow Chancellor, she worked prominently in his campaign to persuade financial leaders that a new Labour government would not be intrinsically hostile to business interests.

She led a very active social life. She loved opera, theatre and the cinema. Her friends were many — enough to justify hiring Brighton Pavilion for her 40th birthday party.

After she ceased to be an active member of GJW — she remained a consultant when the organisation was sold — she was a ceaseless campaigner for various charities. She was of particular value to the Carers' National Association, to which latterly she devoted all her political and financial skills.

She was also prominent in the Alzheimer's Disease Society and the Contact a Family Organisation. She never married, but is survived by her partner for many years, David Bean.

LESLIE FREWIN



Leslie Frewin, publicist and publisher, died on August 27 aged 80. He was born on August 8, 1917.

LESLIE FREWIN always had stars in his eyes, and his life as film publicist, writer and publisher ensured that he was always at the centre of the glamour he enjoyed. His heroes and heroines ranged from jazz greats to film stars and cricketers, and he himself became a kind of hero through his work for charities such as the Lord's Taverners and the Samaritans.

At the age of 19 he ran his own jazz clubs, while writing reviews for *New Musical Express* and *Le Hot Jazz*. Then, after his army service, he wrote *Battledress Ballads*, the first of his 32 books, and went to Gainsborough Film Studios as a trainee. There he met his lifelong friend, the actor James Mason, as well as Barnes Wallis who had conceived the bouncing bomb. Frewin's knack for friendship was to endear him to such diverse personalities as John Huston, Judy Garland and Noël Coward. David Niven called him "Frew Frew".

In due course, he became head of publicity for Elstree Studios, which were part of the Associated British Picture Corporation. In the course of his work there he had a mink bikini designed for Diana Dors to wear at the Cannes Film Festival. The photographers clicked and the moralists clucked — which was the point of this mildly surreal exercise.

Besides the game 00 people-promotion, he was devoted to the sometimes more serious sport of cricket, about which he wrote several books. He was for three years chairman of the original Lord's Taverners, and through these books he raised thousands of pounds for underprivileged children. One of his proudest boasts was that he had bowled Denis Compton, though Compton said it was only because both had drunk too much beer — "and I could no more see the ball than Leslie could see the wicket".

Alfred Hitchcock introduced him to Marlene Dietrich, about whom Frewin wrote *Blonde Venus*, a book which was reprinted many times. She was typical of the stars he adored. Rather more unaccountably, he saw himself as a star too. When he began his own publishing company, he had his photograph printed all over the front of the catalogue. That was part of an extravagant style which included gorgeous shirts, an MCC tie and a kindly flamboyance of manner.

He was always aware, though, that there were others who did not have his uplift of spirit, and for a time he was chairman of the Samaritans, which he said he found both rewarding and humbling.

His publishing venture was as ebullient as his personality, and included *The Wit of Peter Ustinov* (with whom he had joined the Royal Fusiliers) and coffee-table books about the Royal Family. They epitomised his star-struck approach to life.

Leslie Frewin is survived by his wife, Susan, whom he married in 1979, his two sons and his stepdaughter.

MILESTONES



***Diana, Princess of Wales died on* August 31 aged 36. She was born on July 1, 1961.**

After a rather isolated childhood, Lady Diana Spencer met the Prince of Wales in 1977. They were married on July 29, 1981, in St Paul's Cathedral, amid unprecedented press interest, which was not to abate for the rest of her life. The shy 20-year-old soon learnt the tricks of the royal trade, and she began to outshine her husband. She became patron of a great many charities, and was notable for her warm concern for individuals, particularly the disadvantaged and the sick. Her sons Prince William and Prince Harry were born in 1982 and 1984.

Strains in her marriage began to show in the late 1980s, and the Prince and Princess separated in 1992 and divorced last year. In a break with all precedent, she gave a extremely candid television interview about their difficulties. The Princess continued to attract worldwide publicity every day of her life, not least when she was seen with several male companions. The latest of these, Dodi Fayed, was with her when she died.

Obituary published on September 1.

Dodi Fayed, a director of Harrods, died on August 31 aged 42. He was born on April 15, 1955.

Dodi Fayed, son of the businessman Mohamed Al Fayed, was more playboy than entrepreneur, although as a multimillionaire he dabbled in film production. He was known mainly for dating famous and beautiful women, including Brooke Shields, Britt Ekland, Marie Helvin, Koo Stark and Princess Stephanie of Monaco. This summer he began an association with a figure more glamorous than any of them, Diana, Princess of Wales, and took her on a succession of Mediterranean holidays. He was accused by an American model, Kelly Fisher, of breaking an engagement, but the romance with the Princess had become a newspaper obsession. It was while trying to escape the paparazzi, being driven at great speed through the Paris night, that they met their deaths.

Obituary published on September 2.

Sir Rudolf Bing, KBE, former General Manager of New York's Metropolitan Opera, died in New York on September 2 aged 95. He was born in Vienna on January 9, 1902.

Bing's early life was much influenced by Carl Ebert, who gave him a job in 1928 at the opera in Darmstadt, and, as the Nazi era dawned, brought him to Glyndebourne. During the war Bing worked in Peter Jones in Sloane Square. He claimed that soothing hysterical ladies under the hairdryer gave him much valued experience for later dealings with sopranos. When the war was over, he became director of the new Edinburgh Festival until 1949. He then moved to the New York for "5,000 Nights at the Opera" — his 22-year reign at the Met, in the grandest style. His first wife died in 1983, and in 1987 he was married to Carroll Lee Douglass, who was nearly 40 years his junior. After much humiliating publicity, the marriage was annulled when it was judged that Bing had been suffering from advanced senility when he entered into it.

Obituary published on September 4.





Gilbert James Kelland, CBE, QPM, former Assistant Commissioner (Crime) at New Scotland Yard, died on August 30 aged 73. He was born on March 17, 1924.

At one stage in his career, Jim Kelland had operational control of every territorial detective in London. He was responsible for major procedural improvements at New Scotland Yard in the 1970s. His personal virtues and spotless integrity enabled him not only to bring to justice many repellent criminals, but to reform some of the most potentially compromising of police operations, and to investigate and prosecute corruption when he found it within the service.

Obituary published on September 5.

military action on Anjouan

THE TIMES TODAY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1997

NEWS

Young Princes move nation to tears

■ Prince William and Prince Henry moved the nation to tears yesterday as they returned to their mother's London home to see for themselves the scale of public grief over her death. About 10,000 people were waiting outside Kensington Palace ... Page 1

Princess's final words 'passed on'

■ The Princess's final words and requests were conveyed to Mohammed Al Fayed and have been passed on to "the appropriate person". Mr Al Fayed was approached by someone who had helped the Princess during her final hours, and knew her final words, his spokesman said ... Page 1

Millions of mourners pour into capital

■ One of the biggest mass movements of people in Britain this century was under way as millions descended on the capital for the funeral. Police expect a crowd of three million ... Page 1

Princess had rapport with Blair

■ The *New Yorker* reveals that in an interview in June the Princess was enthusiastic about the election of Tony Blair. She also praised the Duke of York as "the best of the bunch" Page 8

Island will be final resting place

■ The Princess will be buried on an island surrounded by an ornamental lake, 100 yards from the ancestral family home at Althorp, rather than in the Spencer family chapel. The decision was made because of fears that interment at the chapel in Great Brington would have overwhelmed the Northamptonshire village with visitors for years to come ... Page 6

Song tipped to raise millions for charity

■ Elton John's new version of *Candle In The Wind* is expected to become the biggest-selling single in history, raising millions of pounds for charity, when it is released later this month. Page 4

CPS is 'not working'

A senior judge appointed by the Government to review the Crown Prosecution Service has admitted that first soundings show the system is not working ... Page 28

Saturn mission delay

The last great space mission of the 20th century — the launch of Cassini, a trip to Saturn by a spacecraft the size of a single-decker bus — has been threatened by a faulty air-conditioning unit ... Page 28

Blow for Israel

Israel faced urgent calls for the formation of a emergency government after suffering a military blow in Lebanon when 12 of its commandos were killed ... Page 26

Russia's 'lost bombs'

In a shocking revelation, Aleksandr Lebed, Russia's former security chief, said more than 100 nuclear "suitcase" bombs were unaccounted for. Moscow denied the claim ... Page 27

ANTHONY UPTON



Early arrivals, who have been camping outside Westminster Abbey for today's funeral service of the Princess, have a hot drink

OPINION

Funeral Day: Spontaneously, but as if bidden by an unseen hand, people roused themselves from collective despondency and took their private grief onto the streets of London. Every place associated with the lady they loved became a shrine. The great flood of emotion which swelled up and flowed into every corner of the kingdom eventually reached the gates of Balmoral ... Page 21

LETTERS

Concern over scale of public grief ... Page 21

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: A park, a lake, an island and a patch of grass offers Diana's memory tranquillity ... Page 20

Anthony Howard: There are comparisons with the 1968 Kennedy funeral and today's Abbey service ... Page 20

Basil Hume: Diana, tell us: did you, early on Sunday morning, find yourself in the presence of God? ... Page 20

OBITUARIES

Jeffrey Bernard, journalist and humorist; **Paul Rudolph,** architect; **Jenny Jeger,** lobbyist ... Page 23

BUSINESS

Job cuts: Transco, the former British Gas supply arm, is to lay off 2,500 employees in an efficiency drive ... Page 29

Software: Misys, of Britain, has agreed to buy Medic, a big player in the US healthcare computing market for £582 million ... Page 29

Fund managers: Schroders has overtaken the Prudential to became Britain's largest fund manager ... Page 29

Burberrys: Great Universal Stores has recruited one of America's best-known retailers to run Burberrys' luxury goods business ... Page 29

SPORT

Tennis: Jonas Bjorkman represents a formidable obstacle between Greg Rusedski and a place in the final of the US Open ... Page 48

Cricket: Warwickshire are favourites for the Natwest Trophy in tomorrow's final against Essex ... Page 45

Rugby union: The challenge for British clubs in the Heineken Cup is to prevent a hat-trick of successes by French clubs ... Page 41

Football: Paul Gascoigne has emerged as a surprise candidate to captain England against Moldova ... Page 46

CAR 97

Ahead of the pack: Rover's Freelander makes its rivals look twee, writes Kevin Eason ... Pages 1, 3

Javelin champion: A teenage restorer's rare find of a British saloon ... Page 2

Farmer Giles: Agricultural vehicles should be selectively banned from roads at harvest time ... Page 2

Skyline: Nissan's flagship musclecar is bound to go fast ... Page 5

Carmart: Your guide to what's new and what's used on the forecourts ... Page 7

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Icon for our times: A tribute to the Princess: from billowing-skirted nanny to khaki-clad anti-landmine campaigner

Weekend

The Mitfords: Echoes from the past ... Page 1



Mother Nature: Lessons of the Great Storm ... Page 3
Shopping: Dressed up for a good night ... Page 5

10 15

Fall girl: Miriam Honess in autumn gear ... Page 6
Black holes: Scientists remain baffled ... Page 8

directory



Holland: Doubled up at the Dutch ... Page 4
Books: ... Pages 9-14
What's on: ... Pages 15-22
TV Guide: ... Pages 23-51

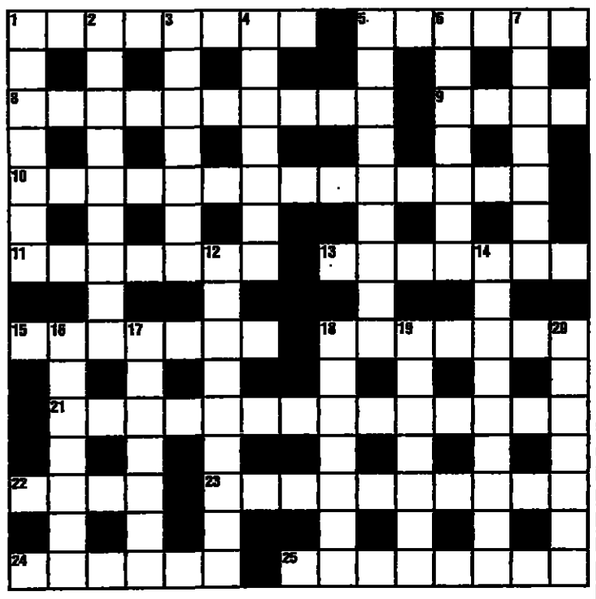
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A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

.....

.....



ACROSS

1 Captain's bête noire, oddly enough (4,4).
5 Statement of authority youngster rejected? Rubbish (6).
8 Every run at the Oval covered by this cricketer (3-7).
9 Containing humour hard to follow (4).
10 By the sound of it, choose a silly Australian policy for train route (10,4).
11 Oriental article included in China issue (7).
13 In all directions, as far as one can see (7).
15 Attraction of a heavenly body producing no frivolity (7).
18 Runner bringing news back to dilapidated city area (4,3).
21 A case of trouble brewing in the Colonies? (6,3,5).
22 Capital from bank I eventually took out (4).
23 Line of houses mostly having, over the top, a sort of tile (5,5).
24 Call for quiet from bothead in game (6).
25 Wrong, indeed – so unjust (3-5).

DOWN

1 Cooked dish that sounds both proper and good (4-3).
2 One going over the top in battle (9).
3 Small scene I love in play (7).
4 Counsel's opening on one occasion, having accepted one's brief (7).
5 Criminal activity involving obscene publication? (5,4).
6 This country put up with delay by one foreigner (7).
7 Old-fashioned style of redcoat's manoeuvre (3,4).
12 Act of revenge as result of change of heart? (3,3,3).
14 Spoke at length, with new leader making us free from tax (4-5).
16 Refuse to attack verbally (7).
17 Corresponding person has almost duplicated travel document (3-1-3).
18 Broadcast a Strine soap, in part (7).
19 Effects achieved by one politician with legislation (7).
20 Erratic course on part of hospital (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,572

SJAMBOK FORWARD
OSOIIILI
POTBOILER LAGOS
HAKO KEO
ILLIUM COFFEEBAR
ERAAL RD
BERKELEYSQUARE
SEOIUR
PETERPRINCIPLE
AWIGCIS
CAITHNESS KEMPT
ENATSEO
BASIN TOASTRACK
AEOERDE
RETSINA TOPGEAR

Solution to Puzzle No 20,577

ROUNDABOUT EDGE
ENIONCRY
MEDIA TALKATIVE
NEMUARES
AIRCOOLED TORSO
NDNIERR
TRODDEN NAIVETE
NWDR
PRESENT DIGRAPH
RDOEEDA
EMEND NEWSPRINT
MNISIACC
INDENTURE PEACH
SEGRSETE
SODA LETTERHEAD

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *P Wolstenholme, Allestree, Derby; P Burt, Great Coxwell, Faringdon, Oxon; T A Nevin, Coulsdon, Surrey; J Bevers, Summerbridge, North Yorkshire; R O Harris, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.*

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HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	05 06	7 0	17 17	6.9
Aberdeen	04.24	4 1	16 48	4.0
Avonmouth	10.25	12.5	22 37	12.4
Belfast	01 58	3.5	14 14	3.3
Cardiff	10.11	11 6	22.23	11 5
Devonport	08.54	5 3	21 07	5 4
Dover	01.58	6 3	14 14	6 4
Dublin (N Wall)	02.38	3 9	14.54	3 8
Falmouth	08.25	5.1	20.38	5.2
Greenock	03 34	3 4	16.09	3.2
Harwich	02.59	3 9	15 10	3.9
Holyhead	01.17	5 4	13 36	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	09.29	8.4	21 51	8.2
Ilfracombe	09.09	8.6	21.21	8.5
King's Lynn	08 33	6 5	21 54	6.2
Leith	05.54	5.3	18 12	5.2
Liverpool	02 12	9 1	14.29	8.9
Lowestoft	00 38	2.4	12 44	2.5
Margate	03 06	4 5	15 17	4.6
Milford Haven	09 23	6 5	21 36	6.5
Newquay	08 15	6.5	20 29	6.6
Oban	08.56	3 8	20 56	3.8
Penzance	07 45	5.2	19 58	5.2
Portland	10.00	1 8	22.08	1.8
Portsmouth	02.15	4 4	14 37	4 4
Shoreham	02.07	5 6	14.25	5 9
Southampton	01.46	4 4	14 04	4 4
Swansea	09.30	9 0	21.42	8.9
Tees	08 45	5.2	19 09	4 9
Walton-on-N	02 52	4 0	15.04	4 0

All times BST Hights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Herne Bay, Kent, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Loch Glascamoch, Highland, 13C (55F); highest rainfall: Loch Glascamoch, Highland, 0.63m; highest sunshine: Isle of Man, 11.2hr

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** southern and eastern England should have a fine morning with some sunshine, but it will become cloudy during the afternoon with the chance of a few spots of rain by dusk, although the extreme south-east may stay bright. Wales, northern and western England will have sunny spells and showers at first, with more rain later. Northern Ireland and Scotland may start dry but showers will spread from the north-west.

☐ **London, S E England:** Early mist then fine with good sunny spells, but it will turn increasingly cloudy from the north-west later. A moderate west wind. Max 19-22C (66-72F).

☐ **E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, S W England:** Any early mist patches will clear to leave a dry morning with good sunny spells. However, cloud will grow later in the afternoon with a threat of rain by evening. A moderate west wind. Max 19-21C (66-70F).

☐ **Wales, N W England, Lake Dist, IoM:** Sunshine and showers, then dry for before more rain later. Moderate south-west wind. Max 17-20C (63-68F).

☐ **Cent N, N E England:** Sunny spells in morning, but showery rain in afternoon. Moderate south-west wind. Max 17-19C (63-66F).

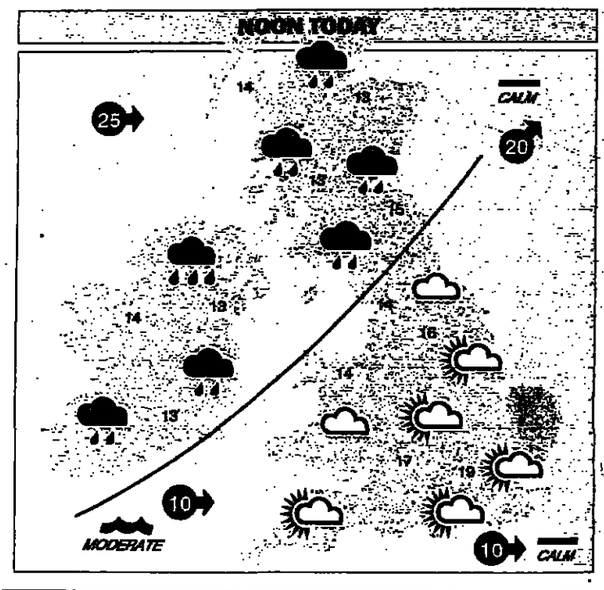
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, N E Scotland:** Bright start but a wet and windy afternoon. Fresh west wind. Max 16-18C (61-64F).

☐ **S W, N W Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll:** Cool and cloudy start, then rain from the north-west. Fresh to strong west wind. Max 15-17C (59-63F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** bright spells, then showery rain. Fresh west wind. Max 14-16C (57-61F).

☐ **N Ireland:** showers spreading from north-west to leave a blustery, showery day everywhere. Fresh west wind. Max 16-18C (61-64F)

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN

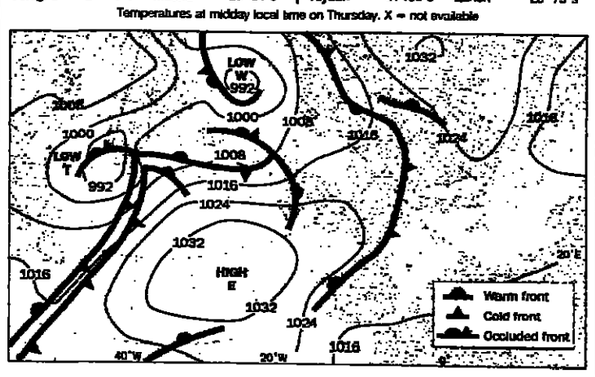
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	7.2	0.01	18	64	s	Isle-of-wight	10.1	0.25	19	66	s
Anglesey	X	0.36	18	64	s	Jersey	7 0	0 02	20	68	s
Aspatria	9.9	0.04	17	63	sh	Leeds	8 5	0.01	19	66	s
Aviemore	3.7	0 83	15	59	sh	Lerwick	8.4	0 07	15	59	s
Belfast	10.8	0.01	18	64	sh	Lauchars	8.3	0.15	19	66	s
Birmingham	9 7	0.01	20	68	s	Littlehmptn	8.4	0 19	21	70	s
Bognor R	9.3	0.18	21	70	s	London	6 8	0 08	22	72	s
Bournem'th	10.5	0.17	20	68	s	Lowestoft	6 6	0 09	22	72	s
Bristol	8.2	0 05	19	66	s	Manchester	8 3	0 05	19	66	s
Buxton	9 0	0.23	17	63	s	Margate	6 0	0 01	21	70	s
Cardiff	8.7	0.06	19	66	s	Minehead	9 5	0.01	21	70	s
Clacton	7.5	0.14	21	70	t	Morecambe	8 9	0 04	19	66	s
Cleethorpes	9 5		21	70	s	Newcastle	9.7	0 02	19	66	s
Colwyn Bay	9.8	0.01	20	68	s	Oxford	9 4	0 06	20	68	s
Cromer	8.3	0.05	21	70	s	Penzance	X	0 01	20	68	s
Dunbar	9.5	0.09	19	66	s	Poole	7 4	0.25	22	72	s
Eastbourne	8.1	0 03	20	68	s	Ross-o-wye	8.4	0.02	20	68	s
Edinburgh	9.3	0 01	19	66	s	Scarboro'	9 8	0 01	19	66	s
Eskdalemuir	4 7	0 56	16	61	sh	Shrewsbury	8.3	0 15	19	66	s
Exmouth	8 0	0.13	20	68	s	Skegness	10 6	0.10	21	70	s
Falmouth	9 1	-	19	66	s	Southend	8 0	0 05	21	70	s
Fishguard	10 5	0 05	18	64	sh	Southport	8 3	0.35	18	64	s
Folkestone	7 0	0 03	22	72	s	Southsea	9 1	0.15	21	70	s
Glasgow	X					Swanage	10 1	0.26	19	66	s
Guernsey	10 8	0 01	21	70	s	Teignmouth	9 8	0 15	20	68	s
Hastings	7.2	0 02	22	72	s	Tenby	10 1	0 01	18	64	s
Herne Bay	6 7	0 02	22	72	s	Tiree	7 0	0 37	16	61	r
Hove	X	0 10	20	68	s	Torquay	9 7	0 11	20	68	s
Hunstanton	9 5	0 07	21	70	s	West-s-mare	9.0	0.04	21	70	s
Isle-of-man	11.2	-	19	66	s	Weymouth	10 0	0 15	19	66	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	27	81	s	Corfu	30	86	s	Malorca	29	84	f
Alcrotiri	30	86	s	C'phagn	21	70	f	Malaga	26	79	s
Alex'dria	29	84	s	Dublin	14	57	f	Malta	27	81	f
Algiers	27	81	f	Dubrovnik	26	79	s	Melb'rne	16	61	s
Amst'dm	23	73	f	Faro	29	84	s	Mexico C	X		
Athens	27	81	s	Florence	32	90	s	Miami	29	84	s
B Aires	17	63	d	Frankfurt	24	75	f	Milan	30	86	s
Bahrain	35	95	c	Funchal	24	75	s	Montreal	16	61	s
Bangkok	31	88	c	Geneva	23	73	f	Moscow	8	46	c
Barbados	31	88	f	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Munich	22	72	c
Barcelona	26	79	s	Helsinki	18	64	s	N Delhi	33	91	s
Beirut	28	82	s	Hong K	29	84	f	N York	19	66	s
Belgrade	24	75	s	Innsbruck	26	79	s	Nairobi	28	79	s
Berlin	19	66	r	Istanbul	22	72	f	Naples	29	84	s
Bermuda	24	75	r	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	27	81	s
Biarritz	22	72	s	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	16	61	r
Borda'x	27	81	s	L Angels	29	84	s	Paris	25	77	f
Brussels	23	73	s	L Palmas	26	79	s	Peking	27	81	s
Budapst	27	81	f	Le Touqt	20	68	f	Perth	17	63	f
Cairo	32	90	s	Lisbon	28	82	s	Prague	23	77	f
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	26	79	s	Reykjavik	10	50	f
Ch'church	10	50	x	Luxembg	20	68	f	Rhodes	29	84	s
Chicago	20	68	s	Luxor	36	97	s	Rio de J	34	93	f
Cologne	21	70	c	Madrid	29	84	s	Riyadh	41	106	s
								Rome	27	81	f
								S P'lsco	X		
								S Paulo	30	86	s
								Salzburg	23	73	c
								Santiago	13	55	f
								Seoul	29	84	f
								Sing'por	31	88	f
								St'kholm	21	70	s
								Strasb'rg	23	73	f
								Sydney	22	72	s
								Tangier	29	84	s
								Tel Aviv	30	86	s
								Tenerife	28	82	s
								Tokyo	28	82	c
								Toronto	19	66	s
								Tunis	22	72	c
								Valencia	28	82	s
								Vanc'ver	20	68	s
								Venice	28	82	c
								Vienna	28	82	s
								Warsaw	21	70	s
								Wash'ton	X		
								Wel'ngton	10	50	x
								Zurich	23	73	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to chart from noon: high E drifts east with little change in central pressure; low W moves north and fills; low T moves quickly northeast towards Iceland and deepens slightly

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Call for emergency government

Guerrillas kill 12 in bungled Israeli attack

By Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

ISRAEL yesterday faced urgent calls for the formation of a national emergency government after suffering a military blow in Lebanon when 12 of its servicemen were killed only hours after Islamic suicide bombers killed four people in Jerusalem and wounded nearly 200.

Most of those killed in Lebanon were members of an elite marine commando unit dispatched on a secret mission presumed to involve the assassination or kidnapping of a senior Muslim militant. The death toll was the worst suffered by Israel since the end of the Lebanon war launched in 1982.

Eli Goldschmidt, a Labour Knesset member, was the first to demand a political realignment bringing together the Labour Opposition and the right-wing Government of Binyamin Netanyahu, who attempted to dispel the mood of national shock by vowing to defeat "terrorists", whom he said were attacking Israel on two fronts. He will face a special session of the recalled 120-seat Knesset next Tuesday to debate the crisis.

After an emergency session of the security Cabinet, Israel announced yesterday that in the wake of the triple Jerusalem suicide bombing, it will "act against the terrorist organisations and their infrastructure to ensure the security of its citizens and their right to self-defence".

No details were given of what specific action is planned, but Israeli security sources said that the military strikes were expected inside areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, where wanted Islamic terrorists were deemed still to be at large. The four-point communiqué from the emergency session also confirmed that Israel would not be carrying out the second scheduled withdrawal of its troops from further areas of the West Bank, as demanded by the Palestinians for September 7.

Revenge call..... 26

"Israel cannot continue on a path which would grant the Palestinian Authority additional territory while the PA fails to fulfil all its obligations, primarily its commitment to fight terrorism in the territories under its control," the communiqué said.

Political commentators said that the hard-line response adopted by the Government would further increase the already severe diplomatic problems facing Madeleine Allbright, the US Secretary of State, when she begins her crucial first peace mission to the Middle East next week.

News of the Lebanon debacle came as Israeli radio stations were solemnly reading lists of times of funerals of Thursday's triple suicide attack. Inevitably the two tragedies became intertwined, increasing public calls for revenge against the Arabs in both the occupied territories and in Lebanon.

The deepening crisis was underlined by an Israeli Army announcement that one of its soldiers was missing, presumed dead in the Lebanon firefight which raged for over three hours. The Israeli Government said that it held the Lebanese Government responsible for the body's safe return. A Hezbollah spokesman in Lebanon said they were not holding any Israelis.

Added urgency has been given to next week's peacemaking mission by Ms Albright. In the current climate her task has been described by one Israeli commentator as "mission nearly impossible".

The gravity of the situation was underlined by separate statements issued by Mr Netanyahu — who spent much of the day closeted with his security Cabinet — and Ehud Barak, the Labour leader, who urged the country to "unite behind the Israeli Defence Force and its fighters".

As the public thirst for revenge grew, Jerusalem's police chief yesterday issued a stern warning to Jewish extremists not to take the law into their own hands. He said that a number of incidents had occurred and two Jewish militants had been arrested.

Mr Netanyahu, facing the biggest security crisis of his career, said that yesterday was "a day of profound agony and of multiple grief for the Israeli people". He hinted strongly at Israeli retaliation, but did not spell out what form this would take.

"The state of Israel is confronted on two fronts with a bitter and difficult struggle with lowly terrorists whose intention is to destroy the state of Israel and murder its citizens," he said. "I say clearly: these murderers will not annihilate Israel." Israeli security sources predicted that a wide range of measures could be taken including raids into Palestinian-controlled areas and more intensive air strikes in Lebanon, including hits at terrorist strongholds in the capital Beirut. The Lebanese Government, fearing the worst, appealed for French diplomatic intervention to prevent further escalation.

Lebanese sources said that a woman and a young girl were also killed in the fierce clashes at Insariyeh in which six Lebanese civilians were wounded.

South Lebanon is the last active Arab-Israeli war front and was one of the subjects which Ms Albright, who will visit for the first time since being appointed seven months ago, was expected to deal with during her now vital peace mission.



HAIDAR/REUTERS

Lebanese troops inspect the scene of the fighting at Insariyeh where 12 Israeli soldiers were killed in clashes with guerrillas yesterday

Boat Race crews hot up rivalry on the Amazon

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

THE young blades of Oxford and Cambridge are to resume their historic rivalry in piranha-infested waters later this month when they restage the Boat Race on the Amazon.

The two crews, including many who last crossed oars on the Thames in March, leave for Brazil next week to acclimatise to the tropical Amazonas region, where temperatures exceed 30C (86F). Various hazards await the eights on the world's largest river, including crocodiles, leeches, malaria and sudden rapids. They have been reassured that the piranhas and crocodiles usually avoid fast-flowing water.

Cambridge has already contacted the authorities to find out the best "station", or side of the river, to row on. In the annual Boat Race, the choice between Surrey and Middlesex stations can be crucial depending on conditions.

However, on a river five miles wide in places, they were told the lane chosen did not make too much difference, even with the additional competition from a Brazilian national crew. Some of the heat may be taken out of the fierce competition between the two teams by the sheer length of the course. At seven and a half miles, it is twice as long as the Putney to Mortlake duel. However, as there is no landing stage nearer to the starting point in the town of Manaus, the crews will disappear from view for five miles while they row through uninhabited rainforest.

Simon Hart, third secretary (chancery) at the British Embassy in Brasilia, said: "The start and finish will be very public events and I think that, in between, there may well be a gentleman's agreement about how they stage it, because they cannot go hell for leather for the whole 12km."

He said the race, scheduled for September 21, was the brain child of Britain's Ambassador to Brazil, Keith Haskell. It has been funded by the Amazonas authorities as part of a "British month" preceding the state visit to Britain in December of President Cardoso of Brazil. The *Cultura Inglesa* in Manaus is joining the spirit of the month with an exhibition of British teapots.

One of Oxford's Amazon crew, Paul Berger, 24, who rowed in the 1996 Boat Race, said: "We have not really been told too much about conditions. I know there will be a lot of safety launches with us. But when you hear we are going through over 10,000m of jungle, it makes you wonder how far into the depths of the Amazon you are."

Mr Berger has had inoculations against hepatitis, typhoid and yellow fever and is taking Larium, the strongest protection against malaria. He expects competition to be fierce, despite the length of the course. "When it comes to rowing, you never want to lose. It is the beginning of the season so there will probably be great rivalry."

Exotic locations have been used before for reruns of the Boat Race at the start of the rowing season. It has been staged in Paris, Tokyo and on the Nile at Luxor, and twice in 1993 in Brazil, on the Rodrigo de Freitas lake and the Bay of Victoria at Espirito Santo.



Bernard: "irreplaceable" chronicler of life in Soho

Jeffrey Bernard is dead after refusing dialysis

JEFFREY BERNARD, the journalist and bon viveur who wrote of his colourful life in seedy Soho bars, has died aged 65, it was announced yesterday (Peter Foster writes).

The author of *The Spectator's* Low Life column succumbed late on Thursday to one of the illnesses for which he was renowned. His death came days after he refused further kidney dialysis. Frank Johnson, Editor of *The Spectator*, said the Soho habitué was irreplaceable. "There will be no more Low Life."

Obituary, page 23

US scientists modify cow virus to kill cells infected with HIV

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

AMERICAN scientists have set a thief to catch a thief by using a modified virus that usually infects cows to kill cells infected with the Aids virus. They have shown that it works in test tubes, but have yet to begin animal trials. Aids experts are nevertheless enthusiastic about the new treatment's potential, so long as it is shown to be safe.

Dr John Rose, a Yale University virologist, and colleagues report in *Cell* that they used a modified version of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), which causes a mouth infection in cattle. They altered it so that it homed in on HIV-infected cells, quickly killing them.

The modifications to VSV were based on discoveries about how HIV infects cells made at the University of Pennsylvania by Dr Robert Doms. He found that the virus first binds to a receptor called CD4 on the surface of white blood cells and then to a second surface receptor, the chemokine receptor.

Only after this "double handshake" does HIV enter the cells. Then pieces of the virus make their way to the surface of the infected cell and stick out, like a flag of victory.

Dr Rose suspected that, if his team gave VSV the genes responsible for making the two receptors, the virus would home in on cells with the tiny HIV flags sticking out of them. The flags would then bind to the receptors, enabling the VSV to kill the infected cells, leaving the rest untouched.

In cultures, that in fact is what happens. "VSV is so fast," Dr Rose told *Science Now*, the Internet science news service.

And because he has disabled VSV by removing its own surface proteins, he hopes that it will not be able to infect other cells. "Without its normal coat, it can't infect anything," Dr Rose maintained.

Animal tests will be needed to prove that this is indeed so. Dr Anthony Fauci, an Aids expert at the United States National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, gives a warning that it might take impractically high doses of VSV to make a serious impact on HIV levels in human patients.

The same technique might be used to treat diseases other than Aids, by exchanging different receptors into VSV. "The potential applications are enormous" said Dr Nava Sarver, who is in charge of novel Aids treatments at the institute.



"The winner, and coincidentally my holiday destination for next year is . . ."

Olympic bomb suspect arrested

AS THE International Olympic Committee considered its choice of the city to host the 2004 Games, a Swedish man was arrested with explosives. Stockholm police said he may have been responsible for two previous explosions at sports stadiums, for which a little-known group calling itself "We Who Built Sweden" claimed responsibility. Stockholm is competing against Rome, Athens, Buenos Aires and Cape Town, and yesterday President Mandela was in Lausanne to promote South Africa's bid.

Rob Hughes, page 48

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military action on Anjouan.

received a series of death threats.

Mourning Israelis thirst for revenge

Netanyahu is being urged to attack Palestinian areas after the suicide blasts, **Christopher Walker** writes



The mother of 20-year-old Rami Koshashvili, one of the suicide bomb victims, grieves over his covered body at their home in Jerusalem before his funeral yesterday

ISRAELIS yesterday mingled defiance with demands for revenge attacks against the 2.2 million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank after the suicide attack which killed seven people, including the three bombers.

Workmen laboured to return the Ben Yehuda shopping mall to normal yesterday. On the wall of the Atara Café, which reopened for business at 8am, was a photograph of the bombing of the street in 1948, before the creation of the Jewish state. Ben Yehuda has seen 12 other terrorist attacks, including one in 1975 when a fridge packed with explosives blew up, killing 15 people.

"We are not going to be put off by these people," said Meir Levisjohn, a tour guide, whose waitress wife Judy was wounded in the attack. "This is our state and we intend to go on living here. Maybe on the way we will have to swallow a few more of these frogs sticking in our throats."

Mr Levisjohn's parents ran a souvenir shop on Ben Yehuda at the time of the 1948 blast, which was blamed on Britons seeking revenge after Jewish terrorist atrocities against British soldiers. "Life will go on for us as it did for them," Mr Levisjohn said. "We are not going to be got rid of that easily."

Sipping espresso in the café only feet from the spot where one of the three Islamic terrorists blew himself up, Yishai Goldfeld, a soft-spoken survivor of the Holocaust, said he had come back to his favourite haunt to express his defiance. "I thought it was right to come here and identify with the employees of the café after they worked through the night to reopen it," he said. Near by, city workers shovelled the last piles of broken glass and twisted metal into skips.

Four Israelis, including three schoolgirls, were killed in the bombing. Classmates of two of the 14-year-old girls who died lit memorial candles and erected a shrine.

Mr Goldfeld was one of many who urged Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to sanction tough military action against Palestinian areas. One Cabinet minister, Ariel Sharon, a former Defence Minister and architect of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, claimed in a newspaper article that Israel was rapidly turning into "another Algeria".

Mr Goldfeld said: "I am not a wild person, but today I have a wild rage."

Israeli outrage was fuelled by frustration that no obvious remedy was available. Many were reading papers filled with photographs of the carnage and predictions that Israeli military action was likely in areas controlled by Yassir Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority.

Only five weeks ago, a suicide attack in Jerusalem's main Mahane Yehuda market less than half a mile away claimed 15 Israeli lives. Yesterday Kochava Akbali, her face flushed with rage, shouted at those around her: "How long is Jewish blood going to be cheap? How long are our leaders going to talk and talk and visit families of our dead? They are interested in keeping their chairs instead of protecting our cities."

But Ahron, a security expert working near the scene of the bombing, said that any attempt to retake the Palestinian cities handed over to Mr Arafat since 1994 could cost hundreds of Israeli lives. His quiet logic was not matched by most of the crowd baying for reprisals. "We need to enter [Palestinian-ruled] Ramallah and Nablus and set off bombs," shouted Shalom Kalna. "Blow up their buses," another man added.

"What will that help? What will that do?" asked Eran Kadmon. "They will just send in more bombers from Gaza."

Mr Kalna responded sharply: "It will make them feel real outrage. Why should we be afraid on our streets? They need to fear us."

Throughout the day, Ben Yehuda and other central Jerusalem streets resembled an armed camp with large squads of soldiers and border police questioning the few Arabs who had ventured across from east Jerusalem to work. Despite the scores of security men and the bomb disposal vehicles on hand, people on the street eyed one another with suspicion and every unfamiliar face was subjected to a prolonged gaze. Approach roads to Jerusalem were virtually deserted and the city's shopkeepers expressed pessimism that tourists could be tempted back in any numbers.

"Every time one of these horrors get on the world's television screens, it convinces more and more people that this is a dangerous place to visit," said the owner of one jeweller's shop.

Hezbollah guerrillas brandish gruesome trophies of battle in south Lebanon



Residents of a coastal village south of Beirut caught up in yesterday's bloody battle rejoiced over a rare humiliation for the Israeli Army, **Nick Blanford** reports from Insariyeh

AS DAWN broke, the streets of Insariyeh were packed with dazed and anxious people. The 4,000 inhabitants of this dusty hilltop village, one mile from the Lebanese coast, had been jolted out of their sleep early yesterday when a fierce battle erupted between an Israeli sea-borne commando unit and Hezbollah and Amal guerrillas.

"We never thought something like this would happen here," said Taysir Rmeih, 26. "We have not been attacked for years, not even during the April war," he added, referring to Israel's 16-day blitz on south Lebanon last year.

Lebanese Army lorries equipped with heavy machineguns and Red Cross ambulances raced through the village on their way to the battle half a mile away. Villagers kept a wary eye on a lone Israeli warship a few miles offshore. Hours earlier, the village had been shelled by the warship as helicopters tried to evacuate the Israeli casualties. One civilian was killed, and another wounded when they accidentally drove into the battle.

As details of the Israeli casualties emerged, the villagers began to rejoice. "Two civilian casualties are worth the price for twelve dead Israelis," Mr Rmeih said.

The scene of the fighting was wreathed in smoke from burning pine trees set alight by the intense gunfire. Lebanese soldiers doused the flames, while weary guerrillas clutching automatic weapons cordoned off the area.

One Amal guerrilla displayed scraps of Israeli uniform, while another produced an Israeli army boot. "The Israelis were trying to plant bombs here, but we shredded them," a guerrilla said.

The remains of an Israeli soldier who was blown to pieces in the fighting were collected by the guerrillas and later displayed at a Hezbollah press conference in Beirut. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's secretary-general, proclaimed the battle as a great victory. "This was the first Israeli commando operation in the history of Zionism which completely failed in its objective."

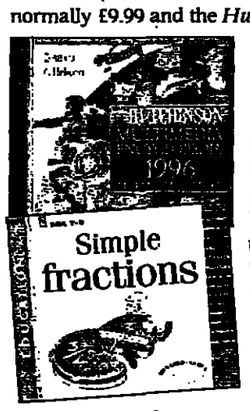
Referring to the gruesome exhibits, which included a foot and part of a head, Sheikh Nasrallah said that they would be returned to the Israelis in exchange for imprisoned Lebanese guerrillas.

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THE TIMES

West despairs of peace as hardliners gain ground

Fading hopes of stopping spiral of violence pinned to success of visit by Albright, **Michael Binyon** writes

Western governments were plunged into despair by the suicide bombings in Jerusalem, believing that there is now only a slender chance to rescue the peace process from a downward spiral of terrorism and tough counter measures.

All now depends on the Americans and Madeleine Albright's mission to the Middle East. Western officials hope that the prospect of the Secretary of State's visit may persuade Israel not to take further action in retaliation for the bruising encounter in Lebanon and the loss of 12 soldiers.

The most ominous development, according to several Western diplomats, is the growing influence of the Arab rejectionists and the governments that have always been wary of supporting the peace process.

Syria still officially supports a negotiated settlement with Israel, but the situation in south Lebanon has now so escalated that Damascus may give more visible support to those launching attacks on the Israeli forces in the area.

Iran, which has long enjoyed close relations with Syria, has been the main backer of the Shia Hezbollah fighters, and has been able to supply arms and support with the tacit backing of Syrian troops in Lebanon.

In Beirut yesterday Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, secretary-general of Hezbollah, said the organisation was not holding any Israeli prisoners. He warned Israeli soldiers not to set foot in Lebanon. But in any further confrontation with the Israelis, both Syria and Iran are likely to give more solid support to the armed groups.

The Lebanese Army, directly involved in a clash with the Israelis, may now make common cause with Hezbollah and the Amal movement. Amal is a strongly pro-Syrian group and one of the mainstream Shia movements in Lebanon. The Beirut Government, eager to concentrate on rebuilding the country's infrastructure and prosperity, may have no alternative now but to take a more confrontational stance towards the Israelis.

Western diplomats are now concentrating their efforts on trying to put pressure on Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to take a tougher line towards Hamas and to persuade moderate Arab countries, especially Egypt and Jordan, to restrain any open support for Palestinian terrorism.

Western governments do not accept the Israelis' insistence that Mr Arafat is largely to blame for the suicide bombings, and believe he is already trying to curb Hamas. But they recognise popular anger in Israel, and know there is strong pressure now on the Israeli Government to scrap key provisions in the Oslo agreement and re-enter the Palestinian towns from which Israeli troops have withdrawn.

The key role, as usual, will be played by President Assad of Syria. His ambivalence and caution have long frustrated American and European peace initiatives. A few weeks ago Syria began to take the first steps towards a reconciliation with Baghdad, one of the most outspoken opponents of the Oslo accords and a bitter ideological enemy of Syria.

There were tentative steps towards a resumption of trade relations with Iraq, isolated by United Nations sanctions, with talks being held between the Iraqis and the influential Syrian chamber of commerce. Such a reconciliation points the way to a gradual acceptance that President Saddam Hussein cannot remain isolated within the Arab world — despite the continuing vehement opposition by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to any normal relations with Iraq.

An end to the bitter rift between the two Baath regimes in Damascus and Baghdad would be a body blow to the Gulf War coalition, which brought Syria into the Western alliance against Saddam. But Mr Assad is far too cautious and canny to jeopardise his relations with the United States by any open support of Iraq, still a pariah among Western nations.

Southern Lebanon, partly under direct Israeli control and partly patrolled by militias co-operating with the Israelis, has long been a flashpoint and a danger to the entire peace process. The Israelis are deeply wary of any permanent engagement in the area, having suffered disastrous casualties and setbacks there after the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. But they have not hesitated to respond militarily to attacks on their forces, and these in turn have rallied Lebanese civilians against the Israelis.

The last Peres Government launched the Grapes of Wrath operation in response to increased attacks by Hezbollah. After rapid political intervention by France, which sees itself as a protector of Lebanon, and then America, an awkward truce was arranged which outlawed any further attacks on Israeli civilians.

The accord was notionally underpinned by the Lebanese and Syrian Governments. But since the election of Mr Netanyahu, Syria has felt less constrained and more threatened by Israel's tough stance.



> Israel is confronted with a bitter struggle with lowly terrorists whose intention is to destroy the State

Arafat points finger at Syria and Iran

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN JERUSALEM

THE Palestinian Authority resisted Israeli pressure yesterday to crack down on terrorists after the Jerusalem suicide attack, and instead accused Syria and Iran of being behind the bombings. Yassir Arafat, the President of the authority, came under increased pressure from America and Israel to launch an offensive against Hamas and other radical elements. But his aides ruled this out, saying the real culprits were abroad. "There are Arab and other nations in the region which are working to sabotage the Israeli-Palestinian peace process to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state," said Tayeb Abdel Rahim, general secretary of Mr Arafat's office.

He compared the militants to Saika, a Palestinian militia controlled by Syria, which during the 1976-89 Lebanese civil war destroyed ceasefires between the factions by bombarding their forces, earning them the nickname, "The Third Cannon".

Lebed says 100 nuclear bombs 'lost' by Russia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday denied allegations by Aleksandr Lebed, the country's former security chief, that more than 100 nuclear "suitcase" bombs were unaccounted for by the military.

In one of the most disturbing allegations yet about the security of Russia's nuclear arsenal, the former general said that he discovered the missing atomic weapons when he served as national security adviser to President Yeltsin last year.

The one-kiloton bombs, known as Special Atomic Demolition Munitions, have been described as the "perfect terrorist weapon". They weigh between 60lb and 100lb, can be concealed in a suitcase or backpack and detonated by one person within half an hour. Although originally designed for use by commandos to blow up targets behind enemy lines, such as bridges and command centres, General Lebed said that if detonated in a city they could kill up to 100,000 people.

"I do not know their whereabouts," said the Afghan war veteran, in an interview with the CBS American television network, to be broadcast tomorrow. "I do not know if they have been destroyed or whether they are stored, or sold or stolen." The weapons could now be somewhere in Georgia, Ukraine, the Baltic countries, or elsewhere.

The allegations follow similar claims that he made to a US congressional delegation in May. At that time, he said that while serving as President Yeltsin's top security adviser last year he had discovered that the military was unable to account for 48 of the 132 portable nuclear weapons. When he informed Mr Yeltsin there was "no reaction". He now believes that the number of missing bombs is more than 100 out of a total of 250.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, yesterday dismissed the allegations as "absolute stupidity . . . all Russian nuclear weapons remain under general and perfectly reliable control of the Russian armed forces". The Defence Ministry insisted that General Lebed was never involved in the issue of nuclear weapons security.

Vladimir Uvatenko, a Defence Ministry spokesman, denied General Lebed's claim. "As a representative of the Defence Ministry I declare: there are no nuclear bombs in Russia out of control of the Russian armed forces," he said. "This statement by Aleksandr Ivanovich [Lebed] can cause nothing but a smile — he never dealt with nuclear security questions and cannot know the situation."



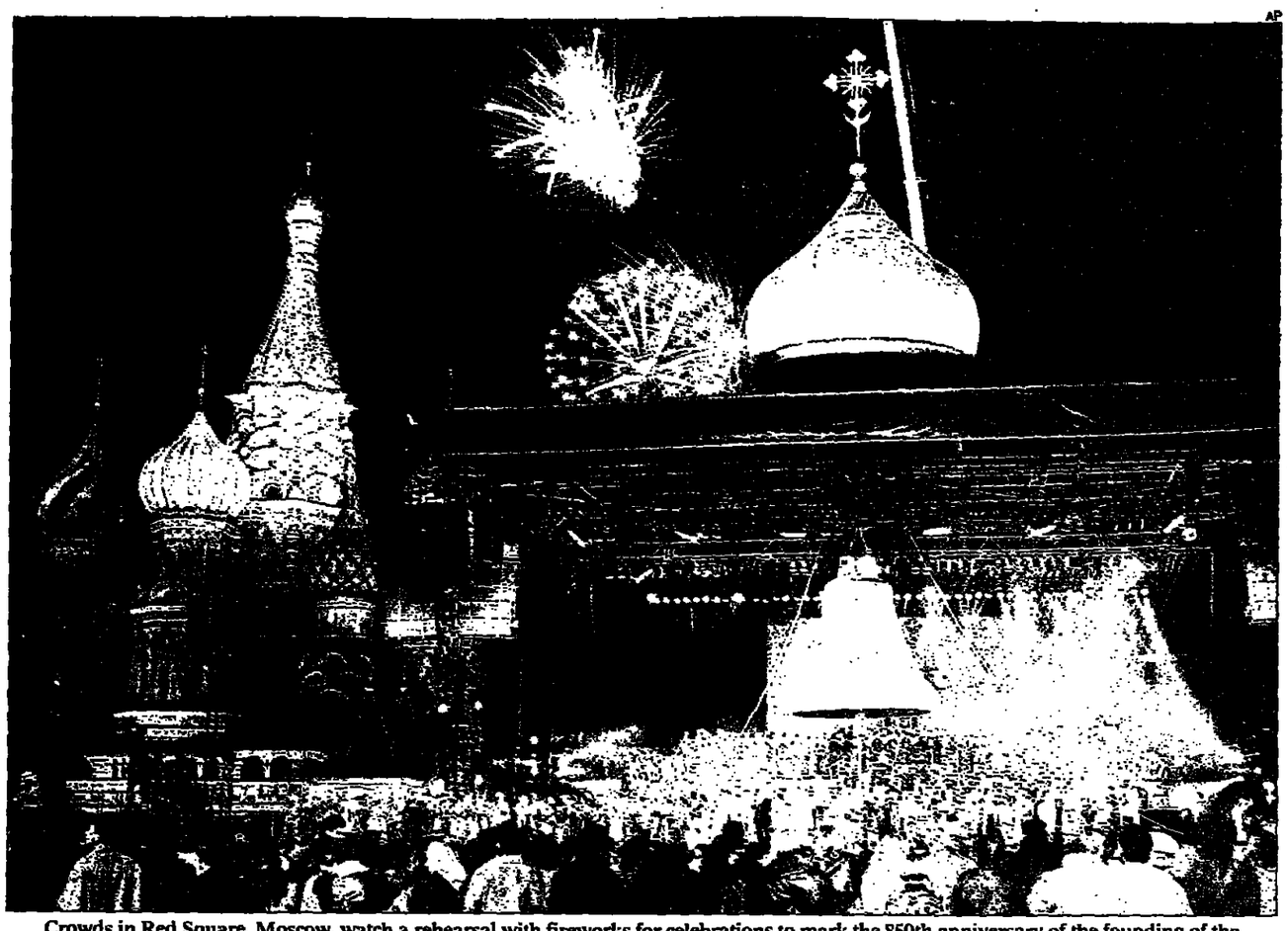
Lebed: making second bid for presidency

Certainly many Russians will view the general's allegations with scepticism. General Lebed, who came third in last year's presidential elections and has already announced his intention to run in the next Kremlin race, needs all the publicity he can get, particularly if it makes the authorities look weak and disorganised.

But despite his possible political motives, the West cannot afford to ignore his warning. In the six years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, there have been numerous attempts at stealing nuclear materials from Russia's vast civilian and military atomic installations.

Although the only recorded incidents have been limited to research laboratories and nuclear power stations, experts agree that security is lax in the military, where poor conditions and collapsing morale have led to widespread theft of military equipment throughout the ranks.

In May, a report by the French Defence Ministry painted a grim picture. It stated that Russia was unable to account for all its tactical nuclear weapons, and that the authorities did not even have a clear idea of how many warheads they were supposed to have.



AP

Crowds in Red Square, Moscow, watch a rehearsal with fireworks for celebrations to mark the 850th anniversary of the founding of the Russian capital. President Yeltsin was due to attend a ceremony last night to signal the official start of a weekend of festivities

Mir pair ready for spacewalk to repair module

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

MICHAEL FOALE, the British-born Nasa astronaut on board the Russian space station Mir, will step into space today to examine the exterior of the Spektr research module, which was ripped open in June in a collision with an unmanned cargo craft.

At 1.55am British time, Dr Foale and the mission commander, Anatoli Solovyov, will open a hatch on the station and float into space, returning some six hours later. They will remain attached to the complex by safety lines.

Dr Foale, 40, who has endured a series of crises on Mir since the start of his mission in May, including the collision, a power blackout, various system malfunctions and failures as well as the crash of a main onboard computer, received clearance from Nasa on Thursday night for the reconnaissance spacewalk. Nasa and Russian mission control officials described the operation yesterday as straightforward and said there were few risks involved. The greatest danger is that a jagged edge could rip one of the men's suits, causing depressurisation and instant suffocation.

Dr Foale's role will be to assist Commander Solovyov, a veteran cosmonaut who has already logged more than 40 hours in nine separate spacewalks. Last month he entered the stricken, airless Spektr module with Flight Engineer Pavel Vinogradov to reattach cables severed after the crash and restore power to the complex. On that occasion Dr Foale played no part in the mission, but sat in the Soyuz escape craft, ready for an emergency evacuation of the station.

It is highly unusual for a non-Russian to be entrusted with safety work beyond routine maintenance. American astronauts from previous Mir missions have described the attitude taken by their Russian colleagues as "Look, but don't touch".

Comoros troops 'driven back by rebels'

FROM REUTERS IN MORONI

A COMOROS Red Crescent official said yesterday that secessionist forces had driven government troops out of the Anjouan capital, Mutsamudu, after fighting overnight left many dead and injured.

The official, who declined to be named, spoke from the nearby island of Moheli a day after the Government of President Taki claimed it had Anjouan back under control. Government troops who invaded Anjouan on Wednesday to counter secessionist forces had retreated to the airport at Ouani, four miles east of Mutsamudu, the official added. His information was based on radio contacts with aid workers on Anjouan. The Government has cut direct telephone links and censored reports about the fighting.

The Red Crescent official said many people had died in the latest fighting sparked by government attempts on Wednesday to crush the revolt. Scores of buildings had also been destroyed in the fighting, which prevented medical aid from reaching the wounded.

But officials maintained yesterday that the Government was still in control of Anjouan and that its forces were on the island "carrying out their duties with dignity and caution". It claimed secessionist leaders had fled Mutsamudu. A statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs accused the secessionists of using women and children as shields.

Anjouan, the second largest of a three-island archipelago, opted for secession on August 3 after months of protest, civil unrest and clashes with security forces that led to several deaths. Moheli, the smallest island, followed suit.

Political leaders on Anjouan and Moheli have disagreed on whether they want full independence, a return to French rule or merely greater autonomy.

In Paris, a senior French military officer, also declining to be quoted by name, described the fighting on Anjouan on Thursday as low-key and involving a few hundred fighters armed with light weapons.

Their main problem was that if the fighting continued much longer, both sides would run out of ammunition.

The Organisation of African Unity yesterday urged the Moroni Government to end its military action on Anjouan.

ANC braced for new Winnie claims

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress is bracing itself for allegations that Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, the leader of its women's movement and the former wife of South Africa's President, stabbed a teenage boy of whose kidnapping she was once accused, and later ordered the murder of Soweto's "people's doctor".

The claims form part of statements which have been in the possession of South African police since 1989. They have raised questions over whether the police covered up the role of Mrs Mandela to prevent derailing the peace process in the run-up to the 1994 elections.

In a later statement to South African police — made in Britain in July 1995 — Katiza Cebekhulu, a member of the "Mandela Football Club", a notorious gang formed to guard Mrs Mandela, said that he had seen her "carrying something in her hand which she lifted high and plunged down into a body that I identified as being Stompie".

This was a reference to Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, a teenage member of the Mandela Football Club, who disappeared in 1988. One of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards was later found guilty of Seipei's murder. Mr Cebekhulu was to have given evidence at her trial for kidnapping the youth, but fled to Zambia. He is presently at a "safe house" in Britain pending his return to South Africa this month.

Mr Cebekhulu is expected to tell the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Mrs Mandela also ordered the killing of Dr Abu-Baker Asvat at his Soweto clinic in January 1989. He said that the killing was ordered because Dr Asvat had refused to certify that both Seipei and Mr Cebekhulu had been "raped" by the Rev Paul Verryn, who had run a shelter from which Seipei and four others were abducted by the Mandela Football Club before Seipei was beaten to death.

Mrs Mandela's involvement in the murder of Dr Asvat was allegedly corroborated by Nicholas Dlamini — who, with Zkhele Cyril Mbatha, was convicted of the killing in 1989 — in an interview last week with the South African *Mail and Guardian*.

Mr Cebekhulu said in his statement that he had driven the two killers to Dr Asvat's clinic. In his interview, Dlamini confirmed this last week, and added he had been offered 20,000 rands (£2,800) by Mrs Mandela. "After asking us if we have the courage to carry out the mission, we told her that we have no problem," he told the paper.

The interview with Dlamini and Mr Cebekhulu's affidavit suggest that Dr Asvat was murdered because he had seen Seipei's condition after he was beaten and insisted that he should go to hospital.



Madikizela-Mandela: 'had doctor murdered'

Time Out's time comes

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S NEW YORK



IT WAS only a matter of time before *Time Out* supplanted *The Village Voice* newspaper as the voice of New York.

Introduced in September 1995, the down-to-earth listings magazine — conceived in London — has now become the pre-eminent compass for New Yorkers anxious to navigate through their unkempt rainforest of clubs, gigs, events, ideas, scenes, talks, demos, sales and "venues". Only two years after it was grafted on to the Big Apple, life here is inconceivable without Tony Elliot's "complete entertainment guide".

This is a startling cultural coup. Founded 41 years ago by, among others, Norman Mailer, *The Village Voice* was for long the in-house journal of Manhattan's "counter-culture". In its most fertile years — which coincided broadly with the Cold War — it was sprightly and provocative, endearing to those who bought the party line, infuriating to the others who didn't. Absolutely no one ignored it. *The Village Voice* fought for gay rights, women's rights, black rights, pornographers' rights. It fought for the rights of everyone except those who wished to say "postman" instead of "postperson" and "he" instead of "he or she".



New voice of the city

The Christopher Columbus of political correctness, it founded New York's new world of careful speech and multicultural nirvana.

Today, with the Cold War consigned to encyclopaedias, and with the parameters of Manhattan's "correctness" set firmly in stone, the time has come for cooler, lighter fare. Enter *Time Out* — unpreachy, egalitarian — to capture perfectly the city's end-of-century spirit.

New York is now apolitical. Almost everyone "works out". Smoking is for social lepers. Steaks are seldom eaten. Martinis are not drunk at lunch any more. Grunge is unacceptable. Crime is no longer an issue. Drag Queens are boring and one in four men is openly homosexual. A Republican mayor rules the city, and rules it well. Who needs *The Village Voice* now?

To beat back the *Time Out* deluge, *The Village Voice* decided last year to become a free sheet. The tactic failed: it was a confession, finally, that the newspaper's commentators were stale, their writings too jejune to sell. The voice of New York's Left was now merely another "noticeboard", to be picked up from grimy street corners by New Yorkers too busy to stop.

This is *Time Out* time in the Big Apple, a time of breezy ready-reckoners and useful information on tap. New York's soul has changed: it is no longer fashionable to be "in resistance". The motto of *The Village Voice* used to be "Expect the Unexpected". New Yorkers need no mottoes now. They expect — and demand — the expected. And *Time Out*, British and pragmatic, never fails to provide it.

Rushdie's close-up on tragic object of desire

SALMAN RUSHDIE, who married secretly last week, has taken time off from his post-nuptial pause ("honeymoon", surely, is an inappropriate word for him) to write a brisk and clever piece for the latest issue of The New Yorker, *an unprecedented mid-week "special issue" produced to commemorate Diana, Princess of Wales.*

Dwelling on the fact that the tragic accident in Paris was the result of a clash between the camera and the car, two of the most powerful icons of our age, Mr Rushdie argues that the Princess died in a "sexual assault".

He says: "Think of it this way. The object of desire, the Beauty, the Blonde (Diana), is repeatedly subjected to the unwelcome attentions of a persistent suitor (the Camera) until the dashing, glamorous knight (riding his automobile) sweeps her away. The Camera, with its unavoidably phallic long-lensed snout, gives pursuit. And the story reaches its tragic climax, for the Automobile is driven not by a hero but by a clumsy drunk."

Simon Schama, the historian, is another contributor to the issue. Stating that Diana was "certainly more sinned against than sinning", he says gloomily: "There is a chance that, for the first time since the death of Victoria, the well-oiled machinery of the monarchy may actually stall on the phenomenon of the populist Princess."

Trump pursues presidential alliance

NEW YORK'S tom-toms are beating out a ripe new rumour. According to reports, Donald Trump, the less-than-uxorious property tycoon is planning to wed a Venezuelan beauty queen.

The *bella latina*, however, is no ordinary temptress. She is said to be Irene Saez Conde, a 6ft former Miss Universe (1981 was her annus mirabilis) who is now the Mayoress of Chacao, a district of Caracas.

But there is a twist. Señorita Saez is planning to run for her country's presidency, no less, in next year's elections. An alliance between her and Trump raises the intriguing prospect of the oil-rich state of Venezuela being governed from a penthouse in the Trump Towers.

The Mayoress certainly has the oomph to take on New York's most-married tycoon. On a whistle-stop tour through Britain in 1994, she had lunch with this correspondent, to whom she said: "Some people say politics is a tough game and I am too soft. But I believe in myself."

So, too, did her stocky female chaperone, seated to my right: "We say back home that she is an airplane — a 747. She is taking off."



Irene Saez Conde and her suitor, Donald Trump

WORLD IN BRIEF

Tourist's death adds to Cuba bomb riddle

Miami: An Italian tourist who was killed when small bombs exploded at three busy seafront hotels in Havana, the Cuban capital, on Thursday was the first victim of a mysterious spate of attacks in recent months against tourist targets (David Adams writes).

Eleven bombs have exploded in less than five months but no recognised group has claimed responsibility for any of the attacks. Some speculate it could be the work of disgruntled military officers. Experts agree that the developing pattern suggests a degree of home-grown expertise, but they say that outside contributions from Miami's exile community are also a possibility. After several bombings in July, Cuba claimed that it had "proof that the people responsible and materials" came from the United States but failed to produce any evidence.

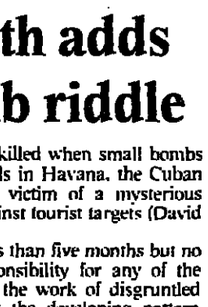
40 dead in stadium collapse

Asunción, Paraguay: As many as 40 people were killed early yesterday when a stadium collapsed during a storm in the Paraguayan border town of Ciudad del Este. Up to 200 people were reported injured. According to witnesses, strong winds ripped off the roof and wall of the stadium, crushing 3,000 people gathered inside for a political rally. The collapsed area was a makeshift structure which went up just over a week ago and had no foundations. The stadium rally was being staged by an opposition faction of the ruling Colorado Party in advance of forthcoming primaries. *(Reuters)*

Kohl's tax reforms rejected

Bonn: Germany's upper house of parliament has rejected the Government's tax reform Bill for a second time, sending the plan back to a committee that will try to reach a compromise. While the lower house approved the reforms in July, the Bundesrat — dominated by opposition Social Democratic state governors — has rejected the Bill, saying that the proposed tax cuts were "not affordable". Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, says broad reforms will spur business investment and combat the country's near-record unemployment of 11.4 per cent. *(AP)*

Mugabe must share spoils



Harare: Legislation giving the ruling Zanu (PF) party of President Mugabe, right, sole access to substantial sums of state money meant to subsidise political pluralism has been abolished by the country's Supreme Court, which declared that the law violated voters' rights (Jan Raath writes). Since 1992, Zanu (PF) has received Z$101 million (£9.5 million) while opposition parties were barred because they secured less than the minimum 15 seats in parliament laid down by the law.

Family returns 'black box'

Phnom Penh: A flight recorder believed to have been stolen by villagers from a crashed Vietnam Airlines plane has been returned following appeals on radio and television. A government spokesman said a peasant family handed in the "black box", which may help to explain the cause of the crash on Wednesday which killed at least 65 people. The instrument was apparently "blown away" by the force of the exploding Tupolev 134. The family received a $200 (£125) reward. *(AP)*

Train kills bridge walkers

Dhaka: At least three people were killed and 50 others were missing after an inter-city train crossed a bridge on which they were walking in northeastern Bangladesh. The death toll could rise as scores of people jumped off the bridge over the Khowai River to avoid the train. "Many people jumped into the river to save themselves from being hit and may have been washed downstream by the turbulent water," a local resident said. *(AFP)*

Flak jackets compulsory

Colombia has equipped its 102 senators with bulletproof vests, which they will be obliged to wear at all times when outside their homes (Gabriella Gamini writes). The Bogotá Government announced that life insurance would be cancelled if they failed to wear the jackets. The measure comes after top politicians received a series of death threats.

Senior judge finds prosecution system 'is not working properly'

Frances Gibb on Sir Iain Glidewell's review of the CPS



Sir Iain: "things can go wrong sometimes"

THE senior judge appointed by the Government to conduct a review of the Crown Prosecution Service has admitted that the system is not working.

Sir Iain Glidewell, the retired Court of Appeal judge, said he had received comments and submissions from hundreds of employees in the Crown Prosecution Service, from typists to senior lawyers.

"There is no doubt that the present system is not working as it should," he said. "I don't mean that to indicate that it's specifically the fault of the CPS; it is the overall functioning of the whole system, from investigation to conviction or acquittal, which has things that can go wrong and sometimes do."

The inquiry was one of the first to be announced by Tony Blair. Sir Iain, who is assisted by Sir Geoffrey Dear, the former Inspector of Constabulary, has a wide-ranging remit, from the organisation of the service to its policies and procedures.

There was specific concern among ministers about falling convictions, and he is required to look at whether the CPS "has contributed to the falling number of convictions for recorded crime". He also has to examine the validity of criticisms that the CPS has led to unjustified "downgradings" of charges.

Dame Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has rebutted criticisms over falling convictions, pointing out that the CPS can prosecute only those cases that are put before it. Sir Iain would not be drawn on falling convictions, except to say that the current statistics relating to crime were all collated in different ways and his review would seek to "co-ordinate" these.

"The statistics from one department are by no means consistent with those from another and this is one factor — although I should be surprised if it were the only one — in the conflicting views over convictions."

Sir Iain, who began work in June and is expecting to publish his report early next year, said it was too early to say what his final findings or recommendations would be. But the single biggest need identified so far was for "greater co-ordination between the various agencies".

He had also been struck by the degree of loyalty among staff for the service, which was created in 1986. "By no means all the comments are wholly critical. They do very often reflect the enthusiasm which members of staff have for the concept of the service."

John Morris, the Attorney-General and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, have already proceeded with one reform of the service — its reorganisation into smaller units in line with police force areas, but that does not take effect until April next year. Sir Iain said: "That inevitably means we are having to go about asking people how they intend to do things under this change and we will comment accordingly." He is likely to give an early view on this in advance of the main report.

He and his small support staff have interviewed a wide range of people and bodies who work with the service. The next stage is now to go out to four specific areas — south-east London, the West Midlands, south Yorkshire and Humberside and South Wales — and "see how it operates on the ground". But he said it was unlikely that they would come up with any ideas that were totally new.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soldiers charged with smuggling drugs

Five soldiers are to appear in court charged with conspiracy to smuggle drugs. They were among seven soldiers arrested after the discovery of 8kg of heroin worth £2.5 million. The soldiers, from 39 Regiment Royal Artillery, based in Ouston, Northumberland, will appear before St Helens magistrates on Merseyside.

Two others were committed for trial yesterday, charged with attempting to smuggle the drugs. Peter James Jackson, 29, and Billy Gee Stott, 19, both with the 57 Battery 39th Regiment Royal Artillery at Abermarle Barracks, Northumberland, appeared before magistrates in Dover. They were charged that at Coquelle, France, they attempted to smuggle Ecstasy and heroin through the Channel tunnel. There was no application for bail. A pretrial hearing was fixed for September 29 at Canterbury Crown Court.

Jeffrey Bernard is dead

Jeffrey Bernard, the writer and *bon viveur*, who wrote of his colourful life in Soho bars, has died. He was 65. The author of the *The Spectator*'s "Low Life" column died on Thursday night just days after refusing dialysis treatment for kidney failure. Frank Johnson, Editor of *The Spectator*, in which Bernard's column was published for 21 years, said that the Soho habitué was irreplaceable: "General columnists are two-a-penny but Jeffrey was the sort of journalist an editor can never replace. The Soho he described was so much his own invention. He was a kind of prose-poet of the louche. There will be no more Low Life." At the Coach and Horses public house in Soho, one of Bernard's favourite haunts, there was an empty seat at the bar. Obituary, page 23

Playtime accident

Rosemarie Stones, 3, was taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary, after falling head first on to a nail on a gate as she chased ladybirds round a neighbour's garden in Bradford on Thursday. Ambulance crews and firemen spent an hour trying to free the girl, but the nail was too firmly embedded to come out. A spokesman for the infirmary said the girl's condition was "fine" and that she was expected to return home with Michael Stones, her father, last night. Mr Stones said "I thought she was going to die. I went down on my hands and knees for an hour just holding her head in position and talking to her, to stop her falling unconscious. She was awake all the time and was in a great deal of distress."

Lay-by body trio in court

Three men were to appear in court charged in connection with the murder of a man whose body was found dumped in a lay-by. The body of Paramjit Singh was found off the A19, eight miles north of Thirsk, North Yorkshire, on Saturday. Mr Singh, 38, who was from Chorlton on Medlock, Greater Manchester, had a single gunshot wound to the head. North Yorkshire police said that a 22-year-old man has been charged with his murder. Two other men in their 40s have been charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. The three men, who are all from the Greater Manchester area, were due to appear before Northallerton magistrates.

Heroin substitute kills 91

A heroin substitute prescribed by doctors killed three times as many Scots last year as heroin. James Meldrum, Registrar General for Scotland, said that methadone was involved, sometimes with other drugs, in 91 deaths. Heroin was linked to 31 deaths. After methadone, the drug most frequently involved in deaths was the sleeping pill diazepam, which is also used to relieve anxiety and alcohol withdrawal symptoms. Mr Meldrum said that it was linked to 72 deaths, morphine was linked to 51 deaths, temazepam to 37, Ecstasy to 7 and cocaine to 3. Drug-related deaths in Scotland rose from 251 in 1995 to 267 last year while deaths of those known to be drug-dependent increased from 155 to 172.

CJD fund launched



A fund has been set up in the name of a vegetarian victim of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Clare Tomkins, 24, right, had not eaten meat for 11 years. The fund was set up after donations came flooding into the family home near Tonbridge, Kent, from around the world. Her father, Roger, and family members decided that the money should be used for research into the human form of "mad cow" disease.

Memorial ad rejected

Plans by English Heritage to raise money for the restoration of the Albert Memorial by cladding it with a huge poster of a model promoting designer clothes have been rejected by Westminster City Council. English Heritage needs to raise £4 million to add to the £10 million pledged by the Government to restore the 125-year-old monument. Objectors to the advertisement, which would have been lit from sunset to dawn, said the plan was visually adverse and objectionable. The council said the 25 m by 9 m poster would appear alien and out of scale with its surroundings.

Paedophile jailed

John Hargreaves, 50, a paedophile with a record spanning four decades, was jailed for 12 years at the Old Bailey for an attack on a boy aged 13. Hargreaves, 50, a catering executive from Wood Green, north London, was convicted of male rape and an unnatural sex act. He denied the charges. Judge Stephen Robbins told Hargreaves, whom he had earlier described as a recidivist paedophile: "You represent a very grave risk of causing serious physical, emotional and psychological harm to young boys. The protection of the public must take absolute priority."

Fine follows civic unrest

A former mayoress and wife of a Labour councillor punched the leader of the Plaid Cymru opposition on Rhondda Cynon Taff council at the end of an official dinner. Carolyn Dower was fined £200 at Cardiff Crown Court on Friday and ordered to pay £200 compensation to Pauline Jarman, 52, who was taken to hospital after the incident. Dower, 55, was found guilty of assaulting Mrs Jarman, causing actual bodily harm. Judge Peter Jacobs said: "The sad thing is the behaviour seen here is one more associated with young people we describe as hooligans."

Killer may appeal

Howard Hughes, the North Wales man told he should never be freed from prison for the rape and killing of a seven-year-old girl, was granted leave to challenge his convictions by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Lord Justice Otton said the plea by Hughes, 32, that the judge who presided over his trial at Chester Crown Court last year failed to warn the jury about the reliability of his alleged confessions to the killing of Sophie Hook, merited further consideration. Hughes, from Colwyn Bay, was given a life jail sentence by Mr Justice Curtis on July 18 last year.

Oxford student jailed for drug offences

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN OXFORD University student has been jailed for two years for dealing in drugs. Benjamin O'Brien, 19, was told by Judge Harold Wilson that those who enjoyed the advantages and privileges of university life had to learn to exercise responsibility as well.

Sentencing O'Brien at Oxford Crown Court, Judge Wilson said: "There is a very serious drug problem in this city and you are part of that problem. Despite all the publicity about drugs, and the deaths involved, particularly with Ecstasy, you ignored all those warnings.

"You supplied friends with drugs and threatened them with death. It is not melodrama, it is happening every day."

Judge Wilson continued: "You were equipped with advantages denied others but advantages and privileges bring responsibilities too. The message must clearly go out that those who peddle drugs in this city and are caught will lose their liberty."

O'Brien, from Halifax, was a politics, philosophy and economics student at Somerville College. He had finished in the top three in his first-year exams.

He admitted six charges of possessing and supplying Ecstasy, supplying cannabis and possession of cocaine and amphetamines. Police had raided his college room in June and found 42 Ecstasy tablets hidden behind a poster and other drugs.

Documents revealed that O'Brien had supplied 172 Ecstasy tablets and other drugs worth £1,500 to student friends since January.

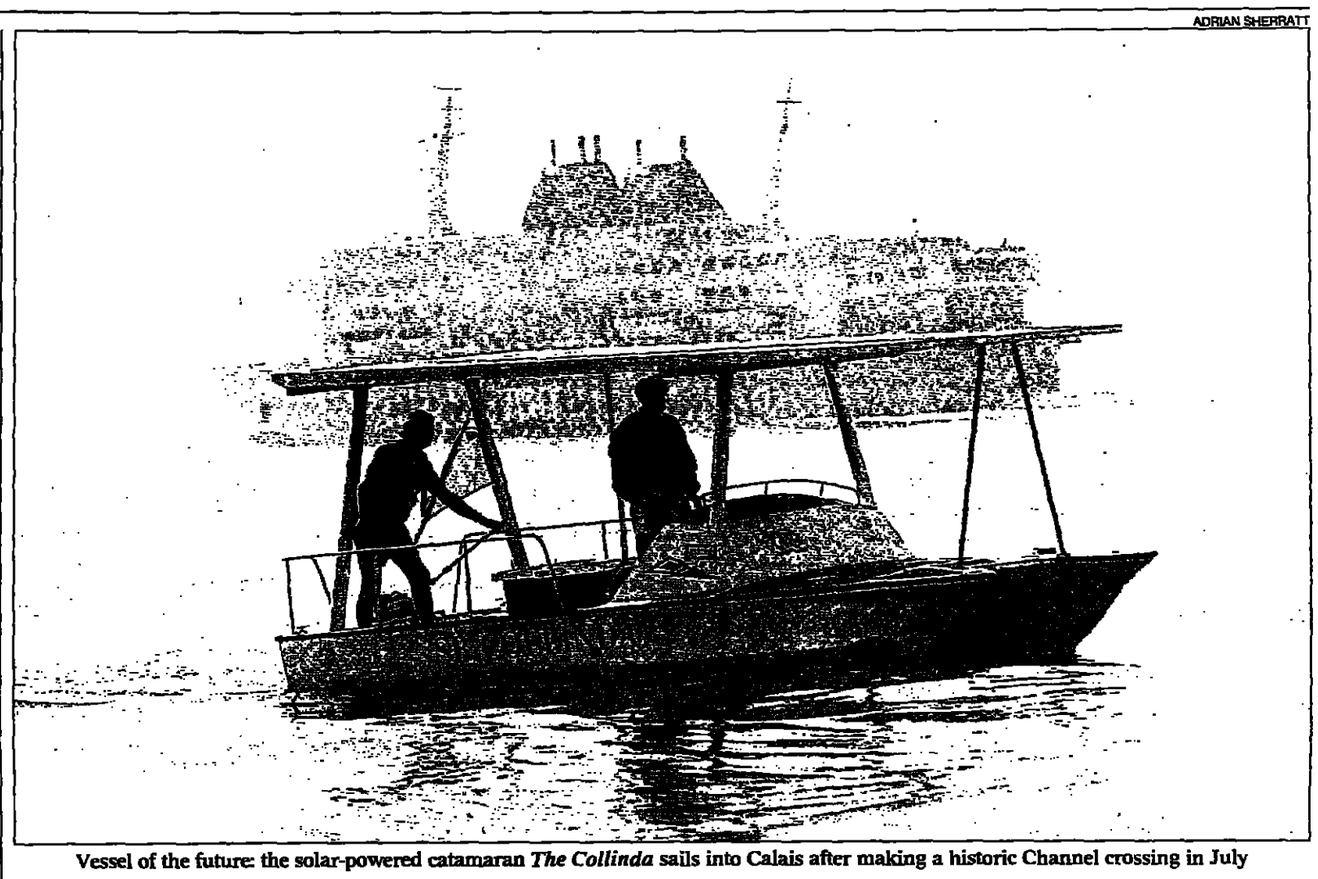
Michael Trueman, for the defence, said that O'Brien's actions had brought shame on his mother, a voluntary care worker, and his father, a brewery director.

"He went from being a highly academic, responsible, hard-working sixth former at Bradford Grammar School to a naive and foolish first-year university student supplying drugs because he thought people would think of him as cool," Mr Trueman said.

"He was a fresher, a young intelligent man, clearly impressionable, and he was drawn into the misuse of drugs."

Mr Trueman added that it not been a venture for profit. O'Brien insisted that he had given up supplying drugs two weeks before his arrest, after friends warned him of the risks involved.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Vessel of the future: the solar-powered catamaran *The Collinda* sails into Calais after making a historic Channel crossing in July

'Green boat' scheme will try to tackle environment threat

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL campaign to make boating more compatible with the environment is to be launched with government and industry backing, it was announced yesterday.

Over the past decade there has been a boom in sales of leisure boats and craft like jet skis. The number of people classed as regular boaters is estimated to be 4.7 million and growing, a survey for the British Marine Industries Federation shows.

But the rise has triggered alarm among conservationists and government advisers about the pollution and noise impacts of power boats on rivers, estuaries, coastal areas and inland lakes. Jonathan Selwyn, of the Centre for Environment and Economic Development in Cambridge, said yesterday there was evidence that engine noise disturbed the feeding of fishes and birds. Too many boats travelling at high speed in sensitive areas could cause banks to erode.

"Where aquatic vegetation is encountered it may be uprooted and chopped by propellers," Mr Selwyn said. Other damage may come from boat-owners who discharge sewage into sensitive sites or launch vessels where young fish feed or birds breed.

Mr Selwyn said the insensitive use of jet skis was a particular problem. "They have shallow hulls and can access areas off limits to larger craft." The two-year initiative on "green" boating, called Navigate with Nature, will focus on owners of pleasure craft, to whom it will distribute leaflets and information packs.

The campaign was unveiled at Eco Boat 97, being run by the Broads Authority and backed by the Environment Agency and British Waterways. It is funded by the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions and the British Marine Industries Federation.

The national campaign follows a recent pilot in Poole Harbour. Catherine Saunders, also of the centre, told a conference yesterday at Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk, that the scheme had proved a huge success, with thousands of green boating leaflets distributed. A helpline to the Environment Agency has also been set up so that boaters can report any spills of paints, toxic chemicals and substances such as anti-freeze.

Cassini mission to Saturn delayed

Investigations may have to be curtailed if spacecraft misses its ideal launch 'window', reports Nigel Hawkes

THE last great space mission of the 20th century has been threatened by a faulty air-conditioning unit.

The October 6 launch of Cassini, a $3.3 billion mission to Saturn and its moons by a spacecraft the size of a single-decker bus, has had to be postponed after technicians at Cape Canaveral in Florida found that it had been damaged by a blower designed to keep part of the spacecraft cool. British scientists have been heavily involved in planning and building many of the instruments on the spacecraft and its Huygens probe.

The delay will be at least a week, and possibly longer. The entire spacecraft has had to be removed from the Air Force Titan IV rocket and returned to a processing building at the Kennedy Space Centre so that the damage to the probe, made by the European Space Agency, can be checked and repaired.

If the delay is longer, it could have serious effects on Cassini's performance. The ideal launch "window" closes on November 4 and any delay beyond that would mean that more fuel would be burnt reaching Saturn, curtailing the amount of science that can be carried out when the spacecraft reaches the planet in 2004. The blower ripped a piece of insulation on the probe designed to protect it when it enters the atmosphere of Titan, one of Saturn's moons.

The probe has 34 generators fuelled by radioactive materials and needs constant cooling before launch. It must now be detached from the orbiter so that damage can be assessed and repaired.

Cassini-Huygens has been described as the last of the big, expensive space probes as Nasa policy now is to launch more frequent but much cheaper missions. One British team involved is led by Dr Carl Murray, of Queen Mary and Westfield College in London, which contributed to the most sophisticated camera system sent on such a mission.

The cameras will take 300,000 pictures of Saturn and its moons, including Saturn's "braided" F-ring, features within the planet's atmosphere, and Iapetus, an outer moon with one hemisphere covered by shadow.

Another team, at the University of Kent, has designed and built instruments on the probe which will descend to the surface of Titan by parachute. The probe will have to survive temperatures of several thousand degrees as it enters Titan's atmosphere at more than four miles a second.

When it lands on Titan — after a seven-year, two billion mile journey — there may be less than an hour's power left in the batteries to relay information to orbiting Cassini. The team responsible do not even know if it will hit solid rock, or an ocean of methane — so Huygens has been designed to float.

Dr Paul Murdin, of the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, said that repairing the damage should not be too complicated.

Teachers find Mozart soothes the savage breast

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

MOZART can soothe even the most disruptive pupils into improving their performance, according to research to be published next week which could lead to a classroom transformation.

Separate studies to be reported to the British Educational Research Association have shown that background music can produce startling results. A previously uncontrollable class of teenagers with learning difficulties registered science scores close to the national average after two years of lessons to Mozart and other classical composers.

A study by academics at London University's Institute of Education found that hyperactive children benefited most from the calming influence of music played during mathematics lessons. Their behaviour improving markedly but pupils of all types increased their workrate.

Dr Susan Hallam, who will present the findings at a conference in York, said: "We have always been aware that music can put people in a good mood, but little has been known about its influence on children in class. Quite how it works we don't yet know, but the difference in pupils' results shows that something is going on."

Anne Savan, a science teacher at Aberdare Boys' School, in South Wales, will outline her theory of the process next month in a psychological journal. She said yesterday: "It was a question of survival on my part originally. I was presented with a group of pupils we could do nothing with, and I decided to try out background music after seeing a documentary about an experiment in Paris."

Mrs Savan played a tape of Mozart concertos, recommended by her son, an Oxford University music student. "We think that Mozart is particularly effective because he wrote in a higher register than other composers. I have music playing before class starts and I just lower the volume when I talk."

The group of 13 slow learners, including ten with behavioural problems, responded immediately. Noise levels in class dropped and the quality of work improved to such an extent that most were only one level behind expectations for 14-year-olds when they took national curriculum tests.

Because the effects were so marked, Mrs Savan carried out her own tests to determine whether the changes were physiological. She found that her pupils' blood pressures, temperatures and pulse rates, which all rose during normal lessons, fell consistently when music was played.

Mrs Savan believes that high-frequency sound stimulates the brain to produce an endorphin, which is responsible for the improvements. A parent governor has donated £1,000 for more sophisticated equipment and a number of other schools in mid-Glamorgan have started trials.

Dr Hallam's study, with fellow researcher John Price, used a variety of composers. "We found that instrumental or orchestral music worked best."

Mrs Savan is embarking on a PhD at Reading University to try to isolate the factors behind the phenomenon, while Dr Hallam is examining the study habits of university students to determine the part that music plays.



Mozart: music a help in disruptive classrooms

Company rejects criticism of timing while safety fears are highlighted

Transco to make 2,500 redundant


Giordano: efficiency drive

BY OLIVER AUGUST

TRANSCO, the former British Gas supply arm, will make 2,500 employees redundant, prompting fears over safety of its gas pipelines.

The move was attacked for the depth of the cuts — reducing the workforce by 15 per cent — and its timing. Privately union officials were critical that the news of the job losses came out on the eve of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. One suggested that the company wanted it to be "less of a story".

Transco rejected the suggestions. A spokesman said: "This was a leak not an announcement and the leak didn't come from us. We were planning to do something later this month. We would never have allowed this to get out the day before Diana's funeral. We wouldn't dream of doing something so silly."

BG, chaired by Richard Giordano, is blaming the staff reductions on an efficiency drive made necessary by the recent ruling by the Monopolies and Merger Commission.

About 1,000 employees will lose their jobs by Christmas and a further 1,500 are to go next year. Transco wants to achieve the cuts voluntarily but unions said there was little scope for voluntary redundancies after 25,000 job losses over the past three years. "There may well be compulsory redundancies. The compensation package has not been sorted out yet but it will be worth millions," Transco said.

The MMC imposed a one-off 21 per cent price cut on BG, Transco's parent company, earlier this summer. All 19 million household customers are expected to see average bills cut by £29. Transco is supposed to accelerate the cutting of distribution charges over the coming five years.

The MMC ruling became necessary when BG and Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, could not agree on a new price formula. Ms Spottiswoode had originally proposed a slightly lower cut than the one later imposed by the MMC. The Transco spokesman said: "The MMC felt there was scope for further cutbacks. But in the end the regulator will determine the way our housekeeping will progress."

While there were no further cuts planned, he said: "No one will be able to put their hand on their heart and say the other jobs will be totally safe." Transco said it did not yet know in which areas the job cuts would be made. Its workforce stands at 16,000.

GMB, which represents many of Transco's staff, said it was surprised by the level of redundancies. A spokeswoman said: "We are stunned. We were aware that Transco was considering job losses following the MMC decision, but not on a scale like this."

Another union at Transco, Unison, said the job cuts would not actually reduce consumers' bills as the MMC has hoped. Peter Marshall, a union negotiator, said: "Transco is trying to beat the MMC target to be able to pay the dividend. It makes me very angry that this company is being destroyed because of the regulator's beliefs. But it won't help the consumer. The savings won't be passed on. Only the shareholders and contractors replacing employees will benefit."

The unions also protested that safety standards will suffer as a result of the job cuts. Mr Marshall said: "All sorts of other things like routine maintenance and connections may have to go in order just to provide that basic safety service."

Transco denied that safety standards could decline. The spokesman said: "You always have to be efficient as well safe."

Tempus, page 31

Misys to buy US software firm in record $923m deal

BY FRASER NELSON

MISYS, Britain's largest independent software house, has agreed to buy Medic, one of the largest players in the lucrative US healthcare computing market, for $923 million (£582 million) in cash.

The deal, the biggest software acquisition ever made by a UK company, will move Misys to fifth largest in a world business software market expected to exceed £1.6 billion this year.

Misys, which sells software to the banking and insurance companies, said its move into the US healthcare market ended its search for a new leg to the business.

Kevin Lomax, chairman, said: "Misys and Medic may have different end-users, but both companies are in accounting and administration. We are now excellently positioned in a very fast-growing market."

The move comes only four months after Medic's shares, which trade on New York's Nasdaq exchange, dropped from $40 to $15, cutting its market value to a low of $380 million.

Mr Lomax denied that he had missed his chance to buy Medic on the cheap. "It may have been valued at £230 million then, but it most certainly was not for sale at that price. We have been interested for the last three years, and we have now managed to secure a price that will be earnings enhancing in the second year."

He said the market fall was prompted by teething problems while Medic moved from selling $30,000 *Medic PM* packages to medium-sized doctors' outlets to its *MedicVision* software, which retails at $1 million.

"Put this together with US quarterly accounting and it makes a very unpleasant cocktail," Mr Lomax said.

He added that the unfavourable market reception to Medic's first-quarter results had prompted its management to sell out. "He [John McConnell, Medic's chief executive] said that he could not run the business in a situation where every time he makes a deal, the share price goes down."

Mr McConnell will cash in his 6 per cent holding for some £35 million on the deal. Other managers will pick up about £15 million from selling shares. They are all being recruited on "golden handcuff" schemes which could be worth up to £14 million between them over three years.

The deal is being funded through a complex off-shore rights issue, where Misys is offering two shares of its Jersey subsidiary for every seven ordinary shares in Misys itself at 1,350p a piece.

The City gave a mixed reception to the deal yesterday, as Misys shares dropped 123½p to 1,475p on the news. Richard Holway, author of the authoritative *Holway Report* on the software industry, said: "This leaves me absolutely flabbergasted, both at the sheer size of the deal and because I believe that software companies should stick at what they are really good at. This could really be one bite too many for Misys."

The US healthcare computing market is valued at $12 billion, and Misys forecasts that it will grow at 25 per cent a year.

Medic last year made $24.6 million before tax, on sales of $121.3 million. It has 10,000 system installations serving an estimated 50,000 doctors.


Kevin Lomax said the acquisition left Misys excellently positioned in a very fast-growing market, but the market gave the deal a mixed reception

New year date for GEC chairman

BY ADAM JONES

LORD PRIOR, chairman of GEC, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that a new, non-executive, chairman would not be appointed until the new year.

He also sought to dampen speculation that Sir Roger Hurn, chairman of Smiths Industries, had emerged as a favourite for the position. Authorisation of the board's controversial new long-term incentive plan was put to a shareholders' poll after intervention from Pirc, the corporate governance researchers.

The scheme allows for share options of up to eight times salary. Big benefits are triggered if earnings growth merely stays in line with the FTSE 100 index over five years. Pirc said the criteria were "less than rigorous".

The Commissioners of the Church of England also chose the meeting to break their usual silence over the running of companies they invest in by publicly questioning GEC over its defence sales.

Tony Hardy, The Commissioners' investment manager, asked four questions on defence equipment sales, as well as exports to Indonesia. Lord Prior told shareholders that the company had sales of £20 million to Indonesia so far. He also said 10 per cent of GEC's defence activities concerned military hardware rather than electronics.

Stake plan for NWM employees

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

NATWEST MARKETS, the troubled investment arm of the high street bank, is considering the introduction of a scheme giving its 7,000 staff a 25 per cent stake in the business.

NatWest yesterday confirmed that Chip Kruger, NWM's chief executive, is talking to Derek Wanless, the bank's chief executive, about the introduction of an equity participation scheme.

At the same time NWM, which saw interim profits slump to £58 million, just a quarter of last year's comparable profits, has said it is to scrap profit-related pay for its staff.

Schroders beats Pru to top funds league

BY JASON NISSÉ

SCHRODERS has overtaken the Prudential to became Britain's largest fund manager, capping a decade of phenomenal growth, although its reign at the top is expected to last only a few weeks.

The merchant bank saw the funds it manages grow by £17 billion in the first six months of the year to reach £104 billion. This puts it ahead of the Pru, which has £100 billion under management for the first time in its history. However, the Pru will regain the top position this month when it completes its purchase of Scottish Amicable.

Peter Sedgwick, Schroders' deputy chairman, said the increase in the first half was "about 50/50" between new business and the effect of the strong markets.

The investment management growth helped pre-tax profits to rise 13 per cent to £131 million. Earnings rose 5p to 51.3p and the interim dividend is to be 7p (6p), payable on October 23.

Mr Sedgwick said growth of the UK securities business was ahead of expectations but he was cautious about the US side, which saw profits fall because of a shortage of new issues, and about the Far East.

The corporate finance business had a strong half, advising on deals worth £5.8 billion.

Tempus, page 32

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"What the Jesuits were to the pope, the McKinsey consultancy firm is to the modern captain of industry..."

Tomorrow, in The Sunday Times Business, an exclusive extract from Dangerous Company: The Consulting Powerhouses and the Businesses they Save and Ruin

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Stagecoach buses face pressure on costs

BY GEORGE SIVELL

BRIAN SOUTER, chairman of Stagecoach, told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that the transport group's bus division would face severe cost pressure in the next two to three years.

Mr Souter blamed the phasing out of profit-related pay, increases in duty on fuel and the tightening of the labour market. "In addition," he commented "there is still considerable uncertainty concerning the Government's policy in this area."

Mr Souter told shareholders that the whole company was currently trading in line with expectations.

The shares dipped 3½p to 664p, compared to the 799p all time high struck earlier this year.

Shareholders were also told that Ann Gloag, Mr Souter's sister and a co-founder of Stagecoach, would reduce her involvement in running the company. He said that in future she would concentrate on the group's property interests in Britain and overseas.

Windfalls 'contributed only £2bn to boom'

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BUILDING society windfalls may have contributed only £2 billion of extra consumer spending so far, suggesting the retail sales boom this year has needed no special impetus.

A survey by MORI, in co-operation with the Bank of England, estimates not only how much of the £35.9 billion in windfall gains this year has been spent but also how much consumers would have spent even without the proceeds of their building society shares.

From questioning 764 people last week, MORI found that, of £5.2 billion of windfall money spent on big ticket items, £3.2 billion would have been spent in any case.

That appears to back the Bank's case for raising interest rates repeatedly since the election. But it also suggests the Bank need not worry about a significant further boost to consumption from the windfall phenomenon.

MORI also asked people what they intended to do with windfall shares still being saved and found that as little as a further £1.2 billion may be spent over the next year.

Of an estimated 65 per cent of free shares so far not sold, only 5 per cent of respondents to MORI said that they intended to sell within the next year, with 38 per cent saying that they would sell at the right price but 57 per cent intending to hold their shares as a long-term investment.

Dharshini David, economist at HSBC Markets, said that the survey suggested that the effect of windfalls is now largely over and that retail sales will now start to slow. "This should be reassuring to the monetary policy committee," she said. The MPC meets next week.

MORI found that 35 per cent of the free shares issued by societies had been sold by those polled and that 47 per cent of these proceeds had been spent. This amounts to about 17 per cent or £6 billion of the £35.9 billion total, in line with City expectations.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, said: "The evidence is piling up that this is a one-off with a reasonably small proportion of recipients spending money on a relatively narrow range of products."

Ex-Saks chief for Burberrys

BY ERIC REGULY

GREAT Universal Stores has recruited one of America's best-known retailers to run Burberrys, its luxury goods business.

Rose Marie Bravo, 46, the former president of Saks Fifth Avenue, the plush clothing and accessories retailer in Manhattan, is to become chief executive of Burberrys next month. She replaces Stanley Peacock, 65, who was responsible for building Burberrys into an international brand with £1.3 billion annual sales.

Miss Bravo has 26 years of experience in the fashion industry. She was chairman and chief executive of I Magnin, the West Coast specialty retailer that is owned by Macy's, from 1988 to 1992, when she joined Saks. Eric Barnes, chairman of Burberrys, said: "Rosemary has a fine record. She has an excellent feel for the merchandising and apparel business, and Burberrys is still largely clothing."

No radical changes are expected at Burberrys, whose profits have more than doubled to £62 million since 1993.

First six months 1997

excellent results:
net profit increases by 28% to U.S.$ 1,031 million
shareholders' equity increases by 28% to U.S.$ 23.1 billion
expectation for whole of 1997: marked increase of net profit per share

(in millions of dollars, except for amounts per share)	First six months 1997	First six months 1996	% change
Result before taxation: *)			
- insurance operations	739	617	19.8
- banking operations	740	541	36.8
Net profit	1,031	804	28.3
Net profit per ordinary share	1.35	1.13	20.3
Interim dividend per ordinary share	0.53	0.44	20.5
	30 June 1997	31 December 1996	
Total assets **)	288,728	247,682	16.6
Shareholders' equity **)	23,139	18,011	28.5

*) Results: U.S.$ 1.00 = NLG 1.884 (average exchange rate)
**) Assets and shareholders' equity: U.S.$ 1.00 = NLG 1.964 (exchange rate on 30 June 1997)

In the first six months of 1997 business volume, results, shareholders' equity and total assets showed continued strong growth. All the Group's activities contributed to this growth.
Total income from the insurance operations rose by 28.0% to U.S.$ 11.6 billion. Total income from the banking operations increased by 23.8% to U.S.$ 3.6 billion.
The result from the insurance operations rose due to an increase of 12.9% in life insurance (to U.S.$ 352 million), of 42.2% in non-life insurance (to U.S.$ 141 million) and of 19.3% in insurance-general (to U.S.$ 246 million).
In the banking operations, interest result increased by 16.3% to U.S.$ 2,095 million, commission income by 27.6% to U.S.$ 873 million and the result from financial transactions by 68.0% to U.S.$ 476 million.
Provisions have been made for future expenditure for a total amount of U.S.$ 171 million.
In the first six months of 1997 the item Value adjustments to receivables of the banking operations amounted to U.S.$ 212 million and the addition to the new Fund for general banking risks was U.S.$ 48 million. In the first six months of 1996, the Value adjustments to receivables of the banking operations amounted to U.S.$ 305 million.
The assets under management of ING Asset Management increased by 11.8% from U.S.$ 125 billion at the end of 1996 to U.S.$ 140 billion at the end of June 1997. The performance has been favourable.
Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Executive Board expects a marked increase of net profit per share for the whole of 1997.

ING GROUP

Internet: http://www.inggroup.com
The report for the first six months 1997 can be obtained at the following address: ING Group, P.O. Box 810, 1000 AV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Telephone: (+31) 20 541 54 71, fax: (+31) 20 541 54 51.

WEEKEND MONEY

Next windfall
The carpetbagger's guide to the societies and life offices. Plus Graham Searjeant on emerging market anxieties .. 33

In the money
The 885,000 Northern Rock members could be in line for payouts close to £2,000..... 34

Comment
Why the new simple pensions are not so straightforward as they claim. Plus how mutuals are ignoring small savers..... 35

Taking stock
Investment: A beginner's guide, part one..... 36

Low cost
The Woolwich moves into pensions with a low-cost plan. How the scheme compares with the competition's..... 37

Savings
Money Information Services and savings news. Best buys in savings and mortgages ... 38

Prospects
The prospects for unit and investment trusts amid Far East market turmoil. Plus instant access savings rates at big banks and societies..... 39

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.27	2.09
Austria Sch	21.26	19.60
Belgium Fr	62.65	57.89
Canada $	2.327	2.133
Cyprus Cyp£	0.882	0.821
Denmark Kr	11.55	10.66
Finland Mkk	9.17	8.42
France Fr	10.1	9.38
Germany Dm	3.04	2.81
Greece Dr	480	441
Hong Kong $	13.09	11.89
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.13	1.04
Israel Shk	5.91	5.28
Italy Lira	2992	2745
Japan Yen	208.93	189.40
Malta	0.666	0.607
Netherlds Gld	3.434	3.139
New Zealand $	2.85	2.41
Norway Kr	12.47	11.53
Portugal Esc	303.53	281.50
S Africa Rd	8.17	7.21
Spain Pta	254.29	235.50
Sweden Kr	13.26	12.18
Switzerland Fr	2.52	2.30
Turkey Lira	277829	257951
USA $	1.693	1.550

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN MONKS

Wary leader in search of unity and influence

Philip Bassett, on the eve of the TUC's annual conference, listens as its General Secretary talks his way through the week

JULIAN HERBERT



John Monks, the TUC General Secretary. "The challenge for the trade unions is to engage with the Government in the most constructive way."

JOHN MONKS is pleased. "After years of exclusion," the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress says, "the TUC is playing its proper part in the life of this country." That proper part will be symbolised next week when the TUC's annual conference is addressed by an extraordinary trinity: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, and, for the first time since 1978, by a serving Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Tony Blair's election victory is central to the prospect of the TUC and the UK's trade unions playing a new part in the life of Britain. In the hall in Brighton where James (now Lord) Callaghan, the last Labour Prime Minister, sang a Marie Lloyd music hall song to signal his refusal to call a general election, so opening the way for the "winter of discontent" strikes that led to the downfall of his government, Mr Blair will set out his modernising vision for Britain's trade unions so that they can play what he sees as their proper part in helping to renew the country.

> "There is a mature mood around. Deals are being done . . ."

Like the rest of Britain, the TUC has been affected by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Indeed, had the TUC not moved from its traditional first-week-in-September conference slot, this year's gathering would unquestionably have been scrapped, just as in 1939 when the Second World War was declared. As it is, in the light of today's funeral, the TUC has abandoned its traditional eve-of-conference cricket match between top trade union leaders and the industrial correspondents of the national media. However, Monday's conference opening will include a tribute to Diana.

Mr Blair's scrapping of all his meetings last Monday after the death of the Princess led to the postponement of the TUC's longed-for first formal meeting in almost two decades with a Labour Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street. But Mr Monks led in the TUC's team the following day for talks on key issues for the unions, like Mr Blair's longstanding pledge to introduce new laws requiring employers to recognise collective bargaining where a workforce majority wants it.

Within a few days, Downing Street declared the Government's readiness to legislate — though Mr Monks and other senior union leaders will have to swallow the bitterish pill of a further delay, having not been included in the Government's first round of legislation. The White Paper will not be published until next year.

In spite of that, Mr Blair's aides want unions, as they want everyone else, to know that the Prime Minister is determined in his purpose. During this year's election campaign, Mr Blair said of trade union leaders sceptical about his intentions: "When are these guys going to realise I mean what I say?" For business as well as unions, this is a crucial text to learn: the reality is that despite the hopes of some employers and the cynicism of some union leaders, there will be legislation — on recognition, on a minimum wage and other labour issues as part of ten significant changes in employment law.

Mr Monks knows it already. After publicly stating his disappointment at not seeing union needs recognised in this year's Queen's Speech, the TUC leader is taking the new delay on the chin. He dismisses any notion that it indicates any backsliding on the part of the Prime Minister: "Tony Blair did say that he was going to do what he was going to do. I have always taken him at his word. I have never had any reason to doubt that word."

Mr Blair has dominated Mr Monks's working week — in meetings of the TUC's governing executive and general council, talks with the Prime Minister, in endless questions from journalists in pre-conference interviews about Mr Blair's attitude towards trade unions, and his employment programme. He will dominate his working week next week, too: in his speech to conference, and in the public addresses and private briefings from the phalanx of ministers going to Brighton, and in what the unions will be saying about what they want from a Labour Government.

The TUC leader is wary about the "rhetoric of opposition", as he calls it, which he says "has been our stock weapon for so long"; wary that it will be replaced by the rhetoric of the shopping list: what Labour can now do for the unions. Instead, he and other more far-sighted union leaders are more interested in what unions can do for Labour, and by that for the country as a whole. "The challenge is to engage with government in the most constructive way," he says.

He talks of finding a third way between the trade union attitudes of blind loyalty or open conflict shown towards previous Labour governments. While some close to Mr Blair quip wryly that they wouldn't mind a bit of blind loyalty from some union leaders, whose dislike of Mr Blair is all but public, such a process of modernisation is precisely what the Prime Minister wants to see from the unions.

That is partly because blind loyalty from trade unions has often slipped inexorably into open conflict: Mr Monks recalls that the last two out of the three periods of Labour government since the war have ended in conflict between the Government and the TUC — conflict that led to Labour losing office.

The TUC leader is determined it will not happen again. "Nobody is looking for a fight," he says. "There is a mature mood around. Deals are being done — in the public sector, in local government, in private industry. People are looking to do the best they can in what they recognise are difficult circumstances."

But even union leaders supportive of Mr Blair believe that he has a mix of thoughts and feelings about the TUC and unions collectively. They think he is facing a blend of advice that ranges from retaining the Conservatives' fully-flexible labour market as the low-cost option for Britain's competitiveness, to its opposite of a high-value, high-wage economy. They think he has a keen knowledge of how Labour governments have gone wrong on unions in the past. And they think that the Prime Minister's view of unions as components of the Labour Party is that their best level of involvement is on an individual basis — union members as individual members of the party.

Even so, union chiefs like Mr Monks believe that the record of Labour in government on employment issues central to trade unions amounts so far to a "very positive balance sheet" — signing the EU social chapter, setting up the Low Pay Commission on the minimum wage, ending the union ban at GCHQ, signalling the end of reballoting on union dues, pumping money into the proposed New Deal on jobs. "There are very significant differences from before May 1," he says.

There is no talk of social contracts, or 1970s-style corporatism, of pay deals, or incomes policies. But there is much talk of partnership — with the Government, with union leaders now reintegrated into Whitehall, and serving on the task forces and advisory groups that the Government has established; and especially with business, with the TUC and the CBI engaged in talks about "narrowing the differences", as the Prime Minister calls it, on key issues like union recognition.

In his speech on Monday, Mr Monks will wrestle with the thorny but central issue of finding that third way for unions — their role with a Labour Government, and with the country. "What unions can do for the Government is quite considerable," he says, citing work on the New Deal, on training and on equality as immediate issues.

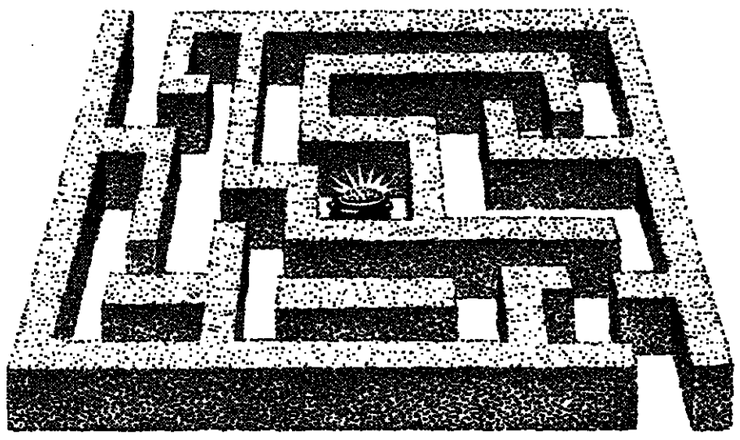
His critics — not many in the unions, where he is regarded with a rare near-unanimity of approval — see him as too supportive of Mr Blair, with his much-vaunted "New Unionism" project of renewal for the unions in Britain — American and Australian-influenced, but essentially a carbon copy of Mr Blair's New Labour project. He denies the charge, insisting there are real differences and possibly real tensions: there will be times when the TUC will want something from Labour that Labour will not be prepared to give, he says.

"My job is to encourage people to the broader view about what we can bring to the table, rather than just what we want from it," Mr Monks says. Such an objective is difficult but, Mr Monks is determined to stick to his course, whatever the buffeting. "To find a constructive role is important," he says. "That's my ambition. We have to find it."

Pleased with Labour's election victory he may be; but, like Tony Blair, John Monks sees it as far from an end in itself. But for the unions it is a new beginning.

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Hammerson warns on property growth

BY CARL MORTISHED

HAMMERSON yesterday gave warning that the commercial property market has little more than two years of growth ahead before entering into decline after 2000.

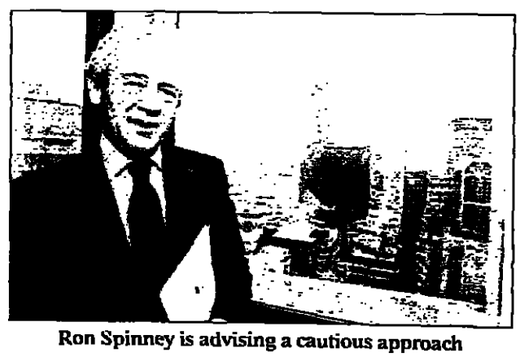
Ron Spinney, chief executive, said Hammerson would not chase development opportunities in central London despite a scarcity of new buildings likely to become available within the next two years. He said: "To speculate on the cycle continuing after two years is not the best decision."

Hammerson shares fell 15p to 449p after the company revealed a fall in interim profits, adjusted for exceptional items, from £31 million to £30 million. This reflects the loss of £1 million in rental income as tenants vacate the Bull Ring site in Birmingham where Hammerson plans a £350 million redevelopment. The company suffered a £3.7 million currency hit because of the translation of rental income from the Continent.

Rents from Hammerson's shopping centres grew 12 per cent and the French properties saw a £500,000 rise in income to £8.8 million. However, the office portfolio is suffering from the level of historic rents, still some 20 per cent ahead of current market rates. Mr Spinney said the level of earnings did not reflect the underlying performance and pointed to pre-letting of the anchor stores at the Oracle shopping centre in Reading and the £80 million redevelopment of Globe House on London's Embankment, let to BAT at £7 million a year.

Adjusted earnings per share stayed at 7.9p and the interim dividend rises 3 per cent to 3.8p.

Tempus, page 31



Ron Spinney is advising a cautious approach

Profits in reverse at Henlys

HENLYS, the bus and coach-making company, yesterday promised an improved second half after re-organisation costs hit half-year profits (Alasdair Murray writes).

Henlys shares fell 39½p to 404p as it unveiled a 5 per cent fall in interim profits, excluding tax, to £16.2 million.

The company blamed spending of £1.8 million on improving productivity levels in its UK bus and coach-making factories and a resulting fall in margins. Prevost, the company's Canadian joint venture with Volvo, lifted profits 40 per cent to £6.5 million.

The dividend rises 10 per cent to 5.5p, payable on October 3. Henlys is confident that bus replacement by privatised companies in the UK and growth in the luxury coach market in North America will continue to drive growth.

Lloyds TSB sells offshoot for £235m

BY GEORGE SIVELL

LLOYDS TSB is selling its Business Technology Finance subsidiary to Newcourt Credit of Canada for £235 million.

BTF is part of Lloyds UDT and is based in Bristol. It specialises in sales aid financing of office equipment, and has assets of £81 million.

Lloyds TSB said that BTF no longer fits its overall strategy. The bank will book a £40 million profit before tax on the deal in its accounts for the year to December. Lloyds TSB shares fell ½p to 757p.

Newcourt, the largest independent non-bank lender in North America, finances sales of Dell computers, the world's largest direct seller of personal computers, as well as Western Star Trucks.

Newcourt is buying BTF largely to provide finance for Dell computers in Britain and to expand Dell sales across Europe. Newcourt is looking to expand into the Benelux countries, Switzerland, Germany and France.

Newcourt believes that it can also expand Lloyds TSB's existing BTF business. The company said that it intends to keep BTF's 160 employees in Bristol, and that it may need to take on more staff as business increases.

Newcourt was established in 1983 to rechannel insurance company cashflows into finance for equipment manufacturers, dealers and distributors. It now finances sales for more than 200 manufacturers.

The company's shares are listed in New York, Toronto and Montreal.

Suppliers of schools to merge

Nottingham Group Holdings and Philip Harris are to merge, forming Novara, one of Britain's biggest suppliers of equipment and materials to the UK education markets.

The merger will take place via an offer of 3.425 Nottingham shares for each Philip Harris share, valuing Philip Harris at £31 million. The terms give Nottingham shareholders about 58 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Yesterday Nottingham also reported a fall in interim pre-tax profits to £3.1 million (£3.6 million). The interim dividend is held at 1.84p a share.

Litho rises

Litho Supplies, the printing supplies company, saw a 12.5 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £4.04 million. The interim dividend rises 9.2 per cent to 3.44p.

Chief quits

S Jerome & Sons, the wool company, said Stephen M Jerome, joint managing director, wishes to leave the company with effect from Monday. He joined it 31 years ago.

Wood down

Arthur Wood & Son, the earthenware manufacturer, suffered a 36.9 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £131,824 in the six months to the end of June. The interim dividend is unchanged at 2p.

Alizyme to list

Alizyme, the AIM-listed drug group, aims to seek a full listing next year when it has three of its research drugs on clinical trial. In the six months to end June 30, Alizyme lost £1.3 million (£65,000 loss).

NIE sale

Northern Ireland Electricity is selling Shopelectric, its appliance retailing chain, to a joint venture led by 3i for £1 million.

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Shares breach the 5,000 level with early surge

SHARE prices in London breached the 5,000 level again, after five days of consecutive gains, to end the week on a firm note.

The week saw investors contend with a major sell-off on Far Eastern markets and volatile performances in New York in the face of conflicting economic news.

Throughout all of this London managed to retain its composure and, despite some shaky moments, investors managed to regain the high ground. Yesterday the FTSE 100 index marked time for much of the morning, but moved into top gear once the better than expected US employment numbers and subdued average earnings were published.

At 2pm the index was 24.3 up at 5,015.6, with turnover of just 303 million shares. It stretched the rise on the week to 197.6.

Brokers in the Square Mile remain convinced that the next move in US interest rates will be upwards. The only question now is when.

Last Friday's Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index suggested that the long-awaited rise in rates may be imminent. On the day the Dow Jones industrial average responded accordingly, dropping more than 200 points.

With Wall Street closed on Monday, for Labor Day, the London market had to spend a further anxious 24 hours to see if share prices could pull out of their nosedive. The wait proved worthwhile and, backed up by some weak data from America's manufacturers, the Dow managed to claw back much of the previous Friday's losses as worries about rising interest rates and collapsing markets in Asia took a back seat.

Admittedly, turnover levels all round have left much to be desired. But survival was the name of the game and by last night most traders decided that surviving the week had been an achievement.

According to Merrill Lynch it may all be irrelevant, anyway. The Thundering Herd told clients on Thursday that a 25 per cent correction for the Dow is on the cards for the middle of next year after it hits an all-time high of 8,500.

Yesterday saw an early mark-up in **BTG** before it was announced that Shell had developed a new generation of traction fluids that can be used in Torotrak, its variable automotive transmission system. BTG responded to the news with a leap of 74p at 780p, after briefly touching 797½p, where the company carries a price tag of £735 million. BTG turned to shareholders back in June, in order to raise a further £25 million to develop the gearing system. The company is due to give a series of presentations to institutions next week.



George Greener showed confidence in Hillsdown

EMI jumped 11p to 582½p as talk of a bid from Seagrams was revived. Almost 700,00 shares changed hands with brokers pointing to some big positions in the traded options market. A total of 526 opened ended contracts have been recorded in the September 575p's and 1,355 in the September 603p's.

Recently privatised **British Energy** jumped 21p to a high of 204½p, the first time past 200p, after announcing it was hoping to make fuel savings of £30 million a year on the back of its £1.5 billion contract with *British Nuclear Fuels*. The deal is also expected to generate profits of £100 million.

There was undisguised disappointment at reports that the Chinese Government had precluded **Cable & Wireless** from bidding for stock in the forthcoming float of a 25 per cent stake in China Telecom (Hong Kong). C&W had been hoping to link up with China Telecom as part of a massive expansion plan on the Chinese mainland. It is hoped $2 billion (£1.2 billion) will be raised from the sale of the stake. Cable & Wireless ended the day 9½p lower at 548½p.

GEC rallied from an early fall to end ½p dearer at 395½p. Lord Prior, outgoing chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the strong pound was continuing to make life difficult. However, he hoped that the ill-effects might be offset by increased efficiency and enable profits to live up to City expectations. There was no indication of who was to replace him as chairman.

The heavily discounted rights issue from **Misys** left its shares 126p lower at £14.72½. It plans to raise £321.5 million by way of a two-for-seven at £13.50. The money will be used to acquire the Nasdaq-listed Medic, one of the five largest investment technology companies in the US supplying doctors with software systems.

Psion rallied strongly as brokers began to reflect on prospects in the wake of Thursday's profits warning. Despite recent production problems, brokers are becomingly increasingly convinced that the Series 5 personal organiser will provide a long-term boost to earnings.

Philip Harris stood out with a jump of 28½p to 268½p on learning of the proposed agreed merger with **Nottingham Group**. The terms value Harris at £31 million and the enlarged company will carry a price tag of £70 million. Nottingham finished 21½p dearer at 82½p.

One man who has every confidence in **Hillsdown Holding**'s future is George Greener, the company's chief executive. Just a day after unveiling the group's strategy for the next year, he has bought 50,000 shares at 170½p.

A profits warning left **Border Television** 16p lower at 381½p. James Graham, chairman, told shareholders that stagnant television advertising revenues and start-up costs would make an impact on profits in the current year.

"In real terms, after making provision for the retail price index, our income from television has in fact registered a slight decline", he said.

Increased losses and once again no dividend left Towry Law 3¼p lower at 31p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The bond market responded positively to the subdued US employment and average earnings numbers, which have alleviated some of the pressure building for a rise in interest rates.

After treading water for much of the session, prices traded strongly before the close.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt climbed £²³₃₂ to £115⁵₁₆ as almost 60,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £1/32 at £111¹₃₂, while among shorter dated issues Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks better at £102¹⁵₁₆.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
HSBC	£20.48½	+129½p	Far East rally
Norwich Union	353½p	+12½p	About to join FTSE
BP	928½p	+84p	American buying/firm oil price
Girovend	110p	-33½p	Profits warning
Psion	395p	+28½p	Rally after profits warning
Philip Harris	267½p	+27½p	Nottingham Group merger
Syltone	137½p	-12½p	Currency worries
British Energy	205½p	+34p	Major contract benefits
Misys	£14.72½	-113½p	Rights issue/acquisition

MAJOR INDICES

New York:
Dow Jones 7807.24 (-27.40)
S&P Composite 930.83 (+2.98)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18615.06 (-120.11)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14199.17 (-514.82)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 916.27 (-12.34)

Sydney:
AO 2608.5 (-10.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4071.68 (-31.97)

Singapore:
Straits 1826.61 (+6.43)

Brussels:
General 13809.55 (+3.36)

Paris:
CAC-40 2926.99 (+9.07)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1183.70 (+3.30)

London:

FT 30	3182.3 (+15.6)
FTSE 100	4991.3 (+14.4)
FTSE 250	4663.6 (+17.1)
FTSE 350	2401.5 (+7.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2611.67 (-21.30)
FTSE All-Share	2345.24 (+6.95)
FTSE Non Financials	2365.00 (+7.56)
FTSE Fixed Interest	125.83 (-0.22)
FTSE Govt Secs	97.22 (+0.02)
Bargains	42138
SEAQ Volume	749.2m
US$	1.5861 (+0.0024)
German Mark	2.8842 (+0.0042)
Exchange Index	100.7 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4621
£:SDR	n/a
RPI	157.5 Jul (3.3%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	156.4 Jul (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofgsta Cv Uts	397½	...
Bristol & West Prf	109	...
Cammell Laird	136½	...
EMI B	115	...
Fairfield Ents	123½	...
GR Holdings	52½	...
Galen Holdings	241½	- 12
Helicon Pubslg	90½	...
Ionica Group	340	- 1½
Kingfisher Leisure	175½	...
Landround	92½	...
Reabourne Merlin	108	...
SBS Group	110½	...
Severn Trent B	33½	...
Stentor Warrants	49	...
Style Holdings	85	...
Thorn B	20½	...
Vigien Technology	62	+ ½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dixon Mtrs n/p (235)	36	+ 1½
Golden Land n/p (21)	2	...
Logica n/p (605)	162½	...
Pendragon n/p (265)	7½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Abbot Group	142½p (+10p)
Dart	272½p (+15p)
UNO	295p (+15p)
SOCO Intl	369½p (+17p)
Business Post	400p (+20p)
Photobition	715p (+25p)
Psion	397½p (+10p)
Boot (Henry)	345p (+10p)
Laporte	704p (+13p)
Marks Spencer	612p (+11p)
Johnson Math	654½p (+11p)
Vosper Thorny	815p (+19p)
Alliance & Leic	659p (+14p)
Cobham	792½p (+16p)

FALLS:

StageCoach	667½p (-9p)
Bass	845p (-10½p)
Scot & New	735p (-9p)
Laser-Scan	17½p (-9p)
Yorkdyde	145p (-10p)
Stand Chart	808p (-38½p)
Blick	206p (-9p)

Prices in this column reflect Thursday's trading

TEMPUS

Transco transformation

LEAKING a one-in-six 2,500 job demolition on a day when it should attract minimum attention would epitomise the cynical approach of the new BG board to public relations. Predictably, cynicism is working. While Transco's price regime was still in Chancery, BG offered investors a dire vision of the future. Since virtually the worst possible outcome has been realised, it has hawked such a positive vision of BG as a dynamic exploration and production group that the shares have risen 60 per cent since demerger to yesterday's peak of 274p.

Such is the transformation of the City's image that the possibility of debt-financed buybacks is reckoned to add value, and calculations are made (by loading all the huge debt on Transco) that suggest E&P is the biggest part of the business. So hopes of a big gas find in a promising Indonesian sector made BG one of the star stocks of August.

Unfortunately, this image is not entirely true. Profits rest squarely on the pressured Transco, whose potential is mainly on the downside thanks to the vendetta waged by Ofgas. This is one of the least promising utilities around, so BG should essentially be a dividend stock. The first-year dividend will certainly be higher than once feared but even 8p a share would put BG on a grossed-up and barely covered yield of about 3.7 per cent at BG's heady level. The average utility yield is 4.6 per cent.

BG should certainly aim to return as much as possible of Transco's value to shareholders by gearing up, leaving a rump E&P to provide some future growth. But if you pay the value out, it will not still be there.

Misys

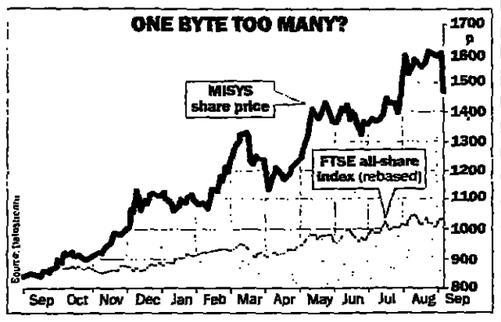
WITH its purchase of Medic, Misys is making a leap into the unknown that is already being labelled the software industry's *BT/MCI*. The company's message to investors rings all kinds of alarm bells: trust us, we know what we are doing.

Misys has yet to slip up but the company has only 7 per cent of its business in the US. It is buying the medical software company as the business leaps from selling $30,000 systems to $1 million systems, and the management charged with masterminding this move has just been paid £50.8 million in cash for their shares

The Medic shareholders were not impressed by Misys shares, which for a deal this size is disppointing. It makes the management's £14 million golden handcuffs seem less binding. Medic is being sold because it cannot live up to the rigours of quarterly accounting.

With such lumpy $1 million sales, this is not surprising but the story still has a suspicious ring of retirement about it.

Moreover, the price being paid looks full. If the deal is earnings enhancing, it is largely due to a complex method of tax shielding. A price crash in Medic's shares in the Spring left it with a market value of $380 million; now its owners are bowing out with a company valued at $923 million. In three years' time, sceptics may well be chewing their words. But on a six-month view, the shares look dull.



Schroders

SCHRODERS is worried. It fears that growth will be hard to come by in the UK pension market. But then it said that ten years ago and since then the business has soared tenfold. Meanwhile, Schroders has expanded nicely in Japan and is finally seeing some pension business from Europe, after a rather long wait.

Successful fund management has been the engine behind Schroders growth, turning a fairly successful merchant banking boutique into Britain's last bastion against a tidal wave of US investment bankers.

But how long can this continue? Cynics have been predicting a bid for Schroders for at least a decade, forgetting that a significant family stake is not for sale.

A growing UK securities business has made a London acquisition less likely — although Panmure Gordon would still make a nice fit. More probable is a move on Wall Street to give the US business the sort of presence that will put it into the Premier League for mergers and acquisitions.

Such a deal would be expensive and might well be an excuse for Schroders shares to go off the boil for a time.

Hammerson

ONCE again, the London property market is facing a supply squeeze after years of glut. Take-up of office space in the capital is accelerating and exceeded 3 million sq ft in the second quarter, the highest figure since the real estate market last peaked in late 1989.

However, speculative office space under construction only totals some 1.1 million sq ft, leaving little slack. Most major developments under construction have been pre-let to tenants.

If history were to repeat itself, developers would now be drawing up plans for speculative new towers to blight the London skyline, but, curiously, it is not happening. The redevelopment of Britannic Tower by Wates City is soon to secure a pre-letting and the Millennium Tower will not go ahead without an important occupier. Hammerson has a development profit of some £20 million locked into Globe House, but the company is wary of investing in new schemes unlikely to be finished before the turn of the century.

Such caution is encouraging and Hammerson was unfairly treated by the market yesterday. With a third of its portfolio in retail, a well-timed redevelopment of central Birmingham under way and its French investments showing growth, Hammerson's net asset value could rise to £5 over the next 18 months. After yesterday's dip, the shares look cheap.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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Luxembourg (post)	(LFr)	9164	65%	5048	2635	1527	2811
Netherlands	(DFl)	778	59%	428	224	130	188
Spain	(PTS)	75258	28%	41414	21648	12550	17143
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	48%	445	232	135	177
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	n/a	237	118.5	79.04	130

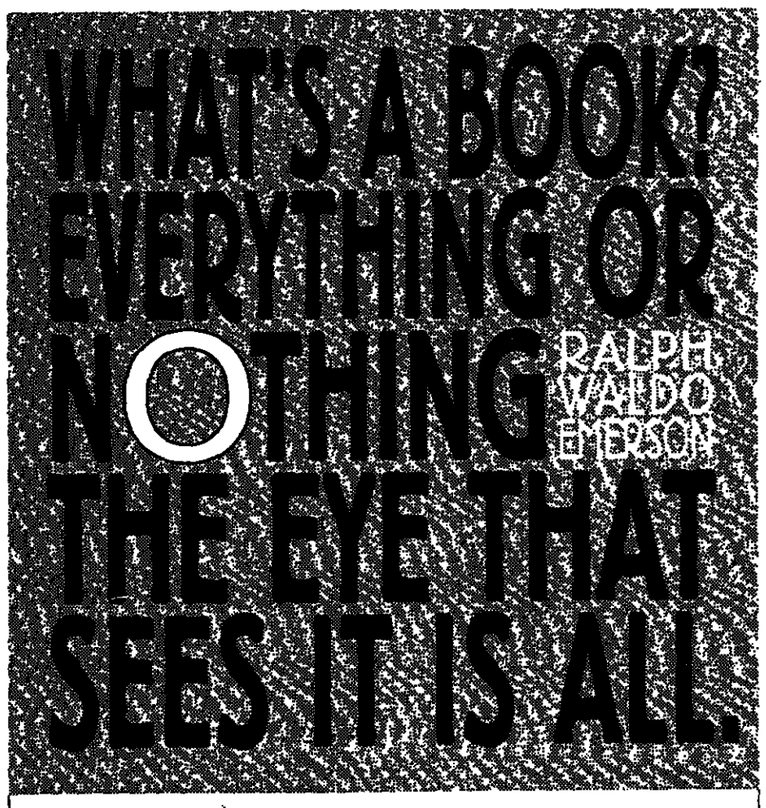
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THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Firm end to week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	407½	Allied Domecq	476	+ 2½	3.7	14.3
625	410	Bulmer (H P)	416½		4.4	11.5
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	46		9.2	11.5
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	975		1.7	24.1
681	425½	Grand Met	584½	- ½	3.2	18.8
627	491	Guinness	595	- 5	3.6	15.6
380	307½	Highland Dist	370½		3.4	14.4
336	232	Matthew Clark†	333	- 1	12.9	6.9
1099½	52½	Mitchells Wl	60½		6.4	14.9
2009½	1462½	SA Breweries	1878½		2.0	

BANKS

1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1290½		2.5	18.1
971	710	Abbey Nat	961½	+ 6	3.9	14.4
684½	532½	Alliance & Leic	658½	- ½	3.1	15.3
563	388½	Allied Irish	530½		3.4	15.1
468½	362½	Ass New Z	449½		4.2	
4621½	2975	Bank America	4415½		2.6	
452	291½	Bank Scotland	439	+ 5	2.3	13.4
1489	976½	Barclays†	1468	+ 10	2.9	14.0
764	517½	Bk of Ireland	728		2.8	15.9
8625½	6005½	Citicorp	8166½			
1759½	1258½	Comerzbk	1681½		2.6	
882½	559½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	737½		0.8	
4321½	2708½	Deutsche Bk	3868½		1.6	
1320	759½	Espirito Santo	1264½		2.8	
947½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	778		0.6	
2369½	1272½	HSBC†	2039	- 3½	2.8	16.5
2256½	1241	HSBC Hld	1936	- 3½	2.8	15.8
783	570½	Halifax	735½	+ 1	2.6	24.4
610	463½	Irish Permt	585		2.6	16.2
783½	424	Lloyds TSB†	757	- ½	2.4	22.1
912½	669½	Nat Aust Bk	879½		4.7	11.9
896½	663½	Nat Westm	816	- 1½	4.6	12.9
695	508	Rpl Bk Scot	615½	+ 12½	3.9	13.3
1093½	681	Standard Chartd	807½	-	6.4	14.1
£1649	£1649	Wells Fargo	£1649		2.0	
397½	315½	Westpac	361½		4.2	
373½	284	Woolwich†	316½	+ ½	3.1	18.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

878½	717½	Bass	847½	+ 2½	3.6	15.9
68½	43½	Bet in the Bar	54½		4.2	
265	142½	Belhaven Brw	153½		4.9	14.3
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	145	+ 1	2.2	22.5
744½	596	Compass Gp	691		1.9	22.1
326	250	Cpbridge P 'A'	287½		2.4	15.9
465	412	Fuller Sm A	413½		3.0	14.7
586	422½	Greenalls, Gp	470½	- 1	4.2	11.7
770	642	Greene King	710	+ 1½	2.9	19.4
334½	152½	Grosvenor Rest	313½		0.3	
289	217½	Grosvnr Chnr Str	266½		1.4	26.2
2981	261	Hardy Hanemn	268½		5.1	11.9
2850	2675	Hsbt J	2687½		2.7	15.6
78	63	Inn Bucanneer	67	+ ½	3.0	10.7
367	327	Mansfield	362		3.3	14.3
315½	252	Morlan Thrap	302	- ½	3.3	10.5
615	505	Morland	585	- 5	3.2	13.0
366½	310	Old Eng Pub	359½	- 1	1.9	33.4
47	29½	Pizzaexpress	30			
820½	577½	RoccaEcosse	700	+ 2	0.5	45.7
437½	332½	Ramsdens (HB)	347½		1.8	30.8
378½	262½	Regent Inns	299½	+ 1	1.1	28.6
768½	627	Scott & New	736		3.6	15.7
326	249½	Vaux Group	287½		2.8	13.4
1457½	1105	Wetherspoon JD	1457½	+ 15	0.9	36.1
863	738½	Whitbread	822½	+	3.9	15.1
7059	5661	Wolverhmptn O	5571		3.9	12.1
3591½	2759	Yates Bros¶	3501½		1.9	22.1
702½	615	Young A'	697½		2.7	27.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

32½	15½	AAF Inds	30			
205	110	Aberdn	205		3.7	
352½	237½	Allen	349½	- 4	3.7	20.9
166½	90½	Amec	141½	- 4	3.8	
512	347½	Amey	457½		2.8	16.8
655	485	Andrews Sykes	595		2.1	17.9
324½	255½	Arlington	294	- ½	5.1	20.0
48½	29½	Ashcroft	42	- ½	4.5	8.6
39½	24½	Balfour Bty	37		4.7	25.8
64½	49½	Barclay	60½		2.7	18.6
291½	236	Barratt Devs	263		4.1	14.6
210	138	Beazer	178	+ 3	3.9	13.7
381½	299½	Bellway	362½		2.9	16.2
22½	16½	Bellwinch	19½			12.9
52½	30	Ben Bailey†	45		4.4	6.3
778½	605	Bett Bty Gp	733½	+ 2	2.7	16.9
172	142	Bett Bros	147½	- 5	4.9	5.0
345	238	Boot (Henry)	345		2.9	13.9
130½	97½	Brandon Hire	120		3.0	16.0
35½	27½	Britannia Gp	34½		1.8	
73½	62½	Br Bldg & Eng	72½			
159	120½	Brunt	157		5.0	17.7
125½	99½	CALA	109½		4.4	
8½	2½	Campbell & Ann	5			
83½	53½	Clarke Tf	81½		8.1	9.6
46	36	Cosslett	43			
105	71	Countryside	94		3.3	14.5
108½	80½	Crest Nicholson	105		3.6	12.9
102½	67½	Cussins	88		5.6	10.3
177½	147½	Eve Group†	164		3.4	19.4
24	17½	Galliford	21		3.7	12.0
932½	657½	Gleeson (MJ)	900		2.2	16.6
320	272½	Hawtbck Euro	280		1.9	19.5
166	123	Hewden-Stuart	163		2.4	26.9
21½	16½	Howard Hldgs	18		5.6	19.3
218	130½	Hunts	201	+ 7	3.7	15.1
372½	162½	Keller	220½	+ ½	2.7	15.1
250½	189½	Kier	205	+ ½	4.0	12.2
380½	279	Laing (J)	378		3.1	34.1
130½	119½	Laing (J) 6.4% Cr Pf	127		6.5	
14½	9	Lovell (Y J)	11½			
210½	162½	Maunders (J)	185½		3.9	13.6
157½	112½	McAlpine (A)	128½	+ 5	6.8	64.5
135½	95½	McCarthy & S	135½		2.2	16.1
75	53½	Mckeevney	65			
2356½	1587½	Morgan Sindall†	1746½		3.2	11.9
306½	224½	Morrison Cons	297½	+ 2	2.2	12.8
144	109½	Mowlem (J)	115½		3.2	12.6
366	208	Persimmon	262	- ½	5.1	12.1
135	100	Pochins	100		3.1	10.4
144½	97½	Prowting	117½		4.3	19.3
21½	12½	Ralme Ind	18½			10.7
179½	145½	Redman	167		2.6	17.0
330	255	Shedir Hldgs†	326½		2.8	28.0
78	46	Sherca #	73½		6.8	16.2
352½	267½	Spencer	270		1.5	13.9
103	76	Stein Hill	89½		3.5	
1537½	115	Tay Homes	145½	+ ½	6.1	31.5
215	153	Taylor Woodrw	192	- ½	2.4	17.1
787½	512½	Tilbury Dougls	680		4.8	15.6
27½	19½	Tiy Group	23½			13.8
86	58½	Wilkinsn†	77		7.1	
152½	112	Wimpey	129½		4.6	18.2
74½	36½	Ward Hldgs†	52½			
271	224½	Westbury	264½	- ½	3.1	15.3
65½	45½	Wilts Young Gn	59½		6.3	16.6
12	7	Wiggins	10	+ ½		
191	147½	Wilcon (C)	171½		3.6	17.2
545	471½	Wilson Bowdn	544		2.5	18.6
155	121½	Wimpey G	124	+ 2½	5.6	13.9

BUILDING MATERIALS

55½	33	Aggregate Inds	52½	+ 1½	4.8	22.4
388	296½	BPB	354	+ 5½	3.8	15.7
110½	69	Briggeridge Bld	96½		4.0	24.3
49½	27½	Brickhsg	49½			
452	351	Blue Circle	384	- 5	4.2	16.8
91½	78½	Brendon PLC	81		7.5	12.5
152½	119	Br Dredging	147½		5.0	12.1
695½	502½	Cbro	675		3.0	14.3
59½	42½	Caledonian Hby	44½		9.0	4.3
192½	162½	Cape	164½		4.6	
273	192	Caradon	263½	+ 1	3.6	10.1
133½	102	Caradon Pf	108		8.4	
89½	52	Chelsea Gdn Cr	77½		8.2	6.7
272½	212½	Dyson (JBJH)	245		2.9	14.2
145	122	Dyson A'I	141		5.1	8.2
4	2½	Ernstone	3	+ ½		
280	215	Ewbnk & Dandy	260		5.3	13.2
161½	109	Gibbs & Dandy	109		4.6	20.5
148	119	Graham Gp	139½		5.5	27.0
365½	267½	Halstead (J)	355		5.8	9.4
334½	271½	Hanson	311	- 1	4.9	12.3
287½	208½	Hepworth	211½	+ 1	8.8	12.0
1056	729	Hewden-Stuart	921	- 7	5.8	8.7
298	190½	Heywd Wtwr	268½		8.3	8.6
75½	61	Ibstock	61½		4.1	33.1
530	315	Johnston	325		4.6	9.8
82½	62½	Lilleshall	73½	- 1	8.2	15.9
137	103½	Marley	116½	+ 2	5.1	11.0
160½	119½	Marshalls†	140½		4.6	21.4
457½	361½	Meyer Int	422½	- ½	3.6	18.2
99½	65½	Norcros	89½		3.6	17.1
158	118	Pilkington†	147½	+ ½	4.4	16.9
364½	194½	Polypipe	216	- 2	1.8	17.7
1147½	878½	RMC Gp	1046	- 9	3.2	15.4
381½	282½	Redland	297½	- 1	7.0	15.2
139½	93½	Rmtrd	135½		4.2	15.8
114½	78½	Robersn	84½		7.8	21.4
129½	91½	Rugby Group	119		3.8	30.5
106½	82½	Russell (A)	103½		3.3	16.4
346½	241½	SIG	341½	- 1	2.6	18.6
3¾	1½	SWP	2			
237½	211½	Sharpe & Fisher	226½		3.1	17.1
26½	9½	Spring Ram	11			
187½	159½	Steetley Hldgs	173½	+ 1	6.0	11.5
131½	90½	Tarmac	127	+ 3½	5.4	
149	100	Tilon	110		5.8	10.4
545	436½	Travis Perkins	503½		3.5	20.5
54½	34½	Tudor	51½		4.9	14.1
614	452½	Wellaway	491	- 1	2.7	15.9

CHEMICALS

173½	142	Albright & Wil	166	+ 1	5.2	12.3
207	140	Allied Colloids	195	+ 1	3.2	18.1
135	117	Amber Ind†	125	- 2½	5.8	11.4
109½	91½	Ambrsdry Grl	104½		1.9	19.2
3	0½	Anglo Utd	1			4.0
2531½	2112½	BASF DM	2185½		2.7	
1195	854½	BOC	1055	+ 2½	3.3	18.2
334	248	BTP	319	+ ½	4.6	15.8
2859½	2246½	Bayer DM50	2471½		2.5	
112½	68½	Brent Chems	82		4.9	9.5
246½	186½	Br Vita	246½	+ 4	4.2	14.8
192½	132½	Bunzl Ind	151½		7.0	8.5
315½	256½	Canning (W)	263½		4.0	13.0
252½	149½	City Technology	175		1.0	16.5
402½	288	Courtaulds	318	+ 2	6.4	15.4
364	246	Croda	352½	+ 2	3.5	14.8
305½	204½	Dowtbrs	225		4.3	10.0
320½	238½	Ellis & Everard†	292½		4.3	13.0
72	49½	Exmo Cotton	69		4.6	11.6
125½	81½	Gibbons†	119½		7.3	10.8
62½	52	Hickson	57			14.7
2918½	2219½	Hoechst	2565½		1.9	
186	118½	Holliday Chem	176		4.1	12.5
1210	681½	ICI	1014	- 7½	3.6	34.8
231½	163½	Inspec†	229½	+ ½	3.8	11.1
180½	119	Kalon	173½		4.0	25.7
749½	562½	Laporte	707½	+ 3½	4.3	15.1
192	115	Marden	138		10.7	16.9
91	38	Micropore	42		6.5	4.7
36	24	Matrabond†	29		5.2	8.8
356	240	Pharmpt	325	+ 15	2.2	27.4
246	174½	Scapa	228½	+ ½	3.4	12.4
28	18	Sutcliffe Speakr	24		8.7	9.8
1980½	1139½	Tomkins	1780½		0.4	20.3
890	595	Wtchhsler Pf	815		5.2	13.4
243	156	Yorks Grp	191½		5.6	
381½	302½	Yule Catto	336½	- 7	3.3	14.9

DISTRIBUTORS

332½	149½	Acton Gp Sats	165		0.8	18.9
350	275	Adam & Harvey†	342½		7.4	5.3
21½	8½	Alexanders	10½		1.2	
90	51½	Applegarth	61½	+ ½	7.3	
3½	1½	Ass Br Eng	2	+ ¼		
570	466	BSS Group†	570		4.5	18.9
16½	13½	Bowtrg Pwrsc	15			
35½	34½	Bogod A'I	37½		3.0	7.4
688	530	Bramnor	668½	- ½	3.5	14.6
27	13½	Bridgend Gp	18	- ½	1.4	
119½	99½	Bris Plstcs	109½		4.8	10.8
360	300	Calfeed	335		4.7	11.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

492½	327½	Amalgamtd	480	+ 5	1.6	21.1
328	232	Accot Hldgs	247½		2.6	17.3
917	769½	Bredon Hill	772½		3.0	18.2
389	180½	BTR	219	+ 1½	5.5	9.5
601½	462	BMTY	531	+ 3½	6.1	11.4
93	50½	Bunzl Inv	90½		9.3	8.3
266	182	Cookson	260	+ ½	4.3	18.1
252	197½	Dowdl	198½		6.6	9.1
402½	295½	DCC	400		2.2	14.9
317	243½	Galiford	277	- 2	2.7	10.5
147	115½	Hampdn Hdgs	141		5.6	11.8
140½	101½	Harrison Cnstr	112½	+ ½	10.0	10.7
654½	423½	Hutch Whampo	545½		1.9	20.8
438½	352	Ingenirtd Trst	395	+ ½	8.3	7.9
512½	391½	Jardine Matth	460		2.3	
158½	118½	Lonrho†	121		4.9	15.6
179½	141½	McLeod Russel	147½		5.8	11.7
457½	389½	Powell Duffryn	408		7.8	11.6
197½	153½	Slaveley	175		6.4	15.2
694½	448½	Swire Pacific	608		2.8	
327½	227½	TT Group	276		2.5	16.7
336½	252½	Tomkinsn†	307	- ½	4.1	13.7
210	165	Unotrsm	202½		6.9	10.5
495	370	Vitec Hldgs	370		6.6	13.6
387½	285½	Wassall	333½		2.7	20.4
186½	122½	Whitecroft	123½		5.1	17.9
368	294½	Williams	366	+ 2½	5.1	15.5

ELECTRICITY

202½	125½	Br Energy PrP	202½	+ 19	5.7	58.4
665	463½	Energy Group	633½	+ ½	4.1	11.6
273½	192	Hartlwol Estat	249½	- ½	5.2	11.0
593½	460½	Hydrlec Power	545½		5.5	10.8
324½	255½	Nthrn Ireland	440½	+ 1	5.1	20.0
797½	569½	PowerGen	771½	- 2	4.1	12.4
480½	319½	Hydro-Elec	445½	+ ½	5.0	12.3
474½	331½	Scottish Power†	459	+ ½	5.0	12.0
472½	373½	Southern Elect	458½		5.9	12.5

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

493½	381½	Acal	393½		3.1	12.8
240½	151½	Acorn	153½			
495	292	Admiralt	464½	+ 5	0.6	36.5
164½	126½	Aston	129		1.6	15.0
628	505	Adwlf	595		0.9	17.7
293½	153½	BICC	161½	- 1	9.9	14.8
81	57	Beales Hunter	59½	+ ½	15.6	
382½	305	Black	305	- 1	8.5	8.0
457½	292½	Bowthorpe	357½		3.6	14.3
14½	9	Bulgin A	13		7.4	15.5
157½	127½	CML Microsy	139½		5.5	18.0
39½	22½	Channel Hdgs	36½		2.5	12.0
43½	27½	Chloride	36½		2.2	9.9
84½	54	Clayhithe	71½		0.0	8.1
91½	53½	Coltchstr	67½		2.3	18.6
730	417½	Dowty Gp Sys	747½	+ 12½	0.4	29.1
382½	295	Dwlsn	374½	+ ½	6.6	10.4
355	254	Domtrsl	305		4.4	14.2
490	359½	Elec & Mus	469½		2.1	13.5
84½	54	Elsyhithe	71½		0.0	8.1
114½	88½	Exlds	99½	- 1	4.0	22.2
856½	715	Filtrona	783½	+ 4	4.7	11.1
388	79½	Chemring	136½		9.6	
288	278	Clyde Blowers	280		3.2	26.9
2080	1475	Dowdsl	2015		4.4	14.2
495	295	Cohen (A)	305			
1080½	709½	Concentric	1065½	+ 6	1.6	21.6
230	189	Dowd Brown	203½		5.2	11.5
286	207	Dwlsn	272½		4.4	14.2
24½	8½	Elec	19½	-	1.6	
82½	57½	Elliott (B)	73½		5.1	21.2
119½	86½	Espersat	100		4.1	15.4
207	140	FKI	193		3.4	20.9
178	145½	Ferrnte	168	+ 1	3.0	21.5
2½	1½	Fermtrs	2			22.7
62½	34½	Firth Hldgst	34½	- ½	0.9	16.9
102½	86	Firth Rosstrl	100½		2.2	17.1
447½	291½	Fiscnic Comt	434		0.4	66.9
32	16½	Flowtech	21½		2.3	9.1
414	327½	GEC†	393½	- 1½	4.2	21.5
208½	129½	Grasby	207½		4.0	17.3
148½	110½	Ind Control	146		3.1	15.8
36	12	Intchnl†	14		8.0	32.0
115	99	Kode†	114		3.9	7.9
61½	37½	LPA Ind	60		4.3	17.0
338	220	Marconi-Sarl	288		3.1	13.3
20½	11	Microvitec	15½		7.2	
425	425	Misys	425			
242	150½	Network Tech	191½	- 3½	0.8	
456	302	Oxford Instr	362½		2.5	12.3
237½	41½	Pace Micro	45		7.6	7.6
80	29½	Penk	32½		10.4	10.1
5166½	2325½	Philips Lnp nv	4884½		1.0	
1615½	1425½	Pltsmor	1611½	+ 4	3.1	8.3
230½	159½	Plasmon	171½		3.9	4.6
288	208½	Pressac	240		2.1	19.1
48	31	Prestwich	38	+ 1	2.6	8.9
512½	276	Psion	395½	+ 9½	0.7	32.7
2475	1750	Racal Elec	2225		2.2	13.5
135½	98½	Radamec	115½		3.4	18.0
380	258	Renishaw	365½	+ 8½	3.3	13.6
3½	1¾	Rodime	2¾			
218½	149½	Roxboro	189	+ 1½	4.4	11.7
1615½	1425½	Rmsy	1611½		3.2	12.9
230½	159½	SDL Bsn Syst	163½		3.0	16.5
411½	355	Serventrse	355		3.0	16.5
69½	52½	Silverstrms	62	+ 7	2.8	21.4
54900½	36712½	TDK	50?5		0.5	
108	68½	TIG	76½		6.7	8.1
125½	91	TSI	107½		5.1	13.1
34½	7	Tadpole Tech	9			
72½	49½	Telemetrix	66		2.7	29.4
207½	175	Telspec	200½			
157½	125½	Thorpe Fff	135½		3.6	11.4
72½	37½	Tidal Systems†	62½		2.5	22.7
287	70	Tunstall	71		9.1	4.9
57½	26½	Verity	55	+ 5	9.2	
196½	83½	Vero	96	+ 1½	7.6	6.5
68½	52½	Vinten Technology	62½	+ ½		
462	400	Vsion†	430		6.1	12.5
15½	10½	Wolfsbourne†	10½			

ENGINEERING

582½	370	Alltt	480		2.4	15.0
40	19½	ASW	24½	- ½		
378	228	Alumasc	252½		4.3	10.1
148	107	Alvis	138½	- ½	2.5	24.9
1225	1397½	Ash & Lacy	1150½		6.0	7.9
877½	602½	Atlas Equip	815		3.4	16.1
109½	95½	Avchitec Mastyl	102½		6.7	5.6
412	314	BBA	396½	+ 1½	2.2	21.3
125½	79½	BHA	87½		10.3	6.8
93	54	Babcock†	90	- ½	1.7	
11½	7½	Bailey (C)	9½			6.1
132½	76	Barnes (Charles)	96		3.8	11.4
44½	29½	Bastnhol	31		3.0	11.8
85½	57½	Benson Group	62½		4.4	10.9
156½	124	Bensteel Ind	150		4.2	21.0
696½	580	Bodycote	666	+ 1	1.1	25.8
49½	37½	Booth Inds	45½			
29½	21½	Bramwell	21½		5.2	9.1
175	136	Britton	154		3.9	10.0
1545	1189½	Br Aerospace	1534	+ 14½	1.3	21.7
179½	133½	Br Steel†	173½	+ 1	7.2	11.7
141½	101½	Brooke Tool	126½		3.6	8.3
211½	151½	Brunel	184½		4.3	10.4
172½	127½	Buffalo†	163½		2.3	16.7
95	52	Cadia	90½			6.1
208½	174½	Cardo Eqpt	197½	+ 3	6.8	12.8
297½	214½	Cardogan†	226½		2.7	13.6
1190	1000	Chamberlin Hll	1180		6.3	8.6
175½	133½	Charter	163½	+ 4	4.7	11.1
856½	715	Chubb	783½	+ 4	4.7	11.1
388	79½	Chemring	136½		9.6	
288	278	Clyde Blowers	280		3.2	26.9
2080	1475	Dowdsl	2015		4.4	14.2
495	295	Cohen (A)	305			
1080½	709½	Concentric	1065½	+ 6	1.6	21.6
230	189	David Brown	203½		5.2	11.5
286	207	Dwlsn	272½		4.4	14.2
24½	8½	Elec	19½	-	1.6	
82½	57½	Elliott (B)	73½		5.1	21.2
119½	86½	Espersat	100		4.1	15.4
207	140	FKI	193		3.4	20.9
178	145½	Ferrnte	168	+ 1	3.0	21.5
2½	1½	Fermtrs	2			22.7
62½	34½	Firth Hldgst	34½	- ½	0.9	16.9
102½	86	Firth Rosstrl	100½		2.2	17.1
447½	291½	Fiscnic Comt	434		0.4	66.9
32	16½	Flowtech	21½		2.3	9.1
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115	99	Kode†	114		3.9	7.9
61½	37½	LPA Ind	60		4.3	17.0
338	220	Marconi-Sarl	288		3.1	13.3
20½	11	Microvitec	15½		7.2	
425	425	Misys	425			
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456	302	Oxford Instr	362½		2.5	12.3
237½	41½	Pace Micro	45		7.6	7.6
80	29½	Penk	32½		10.4	10.1
5166½	2325½	Philips Lnp nv	4884½		1.0	
1615½	1425½	Pltsmor	1611½	+ 4	3.1	8.3
230½	159½	Plasmon	171½		3.9	4.6
288	208½	Pressac	240		2.1	19.1
48	31	Prestwich	38	+ 1	2.6	8.9
512½	276	Psion	395½	+ 9½	0.7	32.7
2475	1750	Racal Elec	2225		2.2	13.5
135½	98½	Radamec	115½		3.4	18.0
380	258	Renishaw	365½	+ 8½	3.3	13.6
3½	1¾	Rodime	2¾			
218½	149½	Roxboro	189	+ 1½	4.4	11.7
1615½	1425½	Rmsy	1611½		3.2	12.9
230½	159½	SDL Bsn Syst	163½		3.



TIRED OF WAITING? 35

Using the counter instead of an ATM can cost you dear

WEEKEND MONEY

BOTTOM FISHING 39

Looking for cheap stocks is the way to survive in Asia



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Patrick Collinson says analysts expect a 12-month wait for the next demutualisation

Carpetbaggers pause to regroup

Is carpetbagging fever, which saw thousands of windfall hunters besiege building societies in search of windfall payouts, now over? Or is the virus simply lying low, before it sweeps through the remaining mutual organisations?

This week HSBC Markets, the investment house, in a report entitled *Windfalls: Is 1997 just the beginning?* said that "conversion fever is alive and well." It forecasts that the £35 billion in windfall payouts this year will be followed by a further £25 billion over the next few years. The bonanza could be ever bigger if the trend away from mutuality spreads through life insurance companies and even to collectively owned organisations such as the RAC and the AA.

At the top of the carpetbagger's hitlist are the three largest remaining building societies, Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley and Britannia. All three fiercely assert that they are wedded to the concept of mutuality. A Nationwide spokesman said: "It's simply in the long-term interests of our seven million customers. As a mutual, we pay better savings rates and offer lower mortgage rates."

Nationwide claims that it has held its mortgage rate 0.4 per cent below demutualised rivals, which translates into a £250 a year saving on a £50,000 mortgage. It is not difficult to work out than in only six years the savings on a Nationwide mortgage will be greater than the average society windfall payout. The society is tentatively dropping the barriers it erected to new membership accounts before the vote, although the minimum investment of £5,000 is ten times the minimum before the carpetbagging craze.

Bradford & Bingley says its commitment to mutuality is "completely concrete." A spokesman said: "You can go elsewhere if you want to get your hands on some quick lolly. We are not for turning. Michael Hardern and his band of dissident members who attempted to force the Nationwide to convert have been fought off and the temperature has now cooled." B&B is allowing new members to open membership-qualifying instant-access accounts for a minimum balance of £1,000, paying 3.85 per cent. Britannia also allows new membership accounts, with a £2,000 balance paying 4.5 per cent.

But the bellows of defiance fall on deaf ears in the City. Jonathan Loynes, a HSBC Markets analyst, said: "There is still a fair chance that the Nationwide itself is unable to continue to resist the pressures to either convert or be acquired for very long. The vote was more a thumbs-down to untested management than to demutualisation, and the promise of a big cash payout may be too tempting to resist at the next opportunity." A Nationwide conversion would produce a total payout of about £7 billion.

Another leading City analyst said: "I think Bradford & Bingley secretly wanted Nationwide to demutualise, so it could have an excuse to say there's nothing more in it for mutuality." The biggest societies, analysts say, are more likely to convert as they have been behaving like plcs for years and have lost touch with their local roots. Senior management have often come from non-mutual companies and are pyschologically less attached to mutuality. However, analysts do not expect a big demutualisation for at least another 12 months.

The societies have also launched a fightback campaign against the carpetbaggers. In the corridors of Whitehall they are lobbying furiously for the non-enactment of a clause in the Building Societies Bill which obliges all new accounts to offer membership status. They are also seeking to bar members of less than two years' standing from benefiting from a conversion.

In one case a society is even considering taking direct action against an individual carpetbagger. Skipton claims that one person assaulted a member of staff in a South of England branch when he was refused a membership account. "Our staff are still suffering from the rudeness and demands of carpetbaggers, and I have to say it was particularly bad in the South," said a Skipton spokesman.

The small societies, which would see their reserves swallowed by fees for conversion and which would almost certainly be gobbled up by larger institutions if they float, are far less likely to demutualise. They are likely to continue as niche mutual lenders with specialist customers, such as the Catholic Building Society. But demutualisation does not stop at building societies. Norwich Union's £4.2 billion conversion has whetted the carpetbagger's appetite for life offices, though sharing in a payout is going to be much less easy and lucrative than opening a £100 building society account (see right).

The truly dedicated carpetbagger is, however, already looking beyond life offices and building societies. Healthcare provider Bupa could be worth £1 billion on the Stock Exchange, although no one is sure how it could be forced on to the market, and in any case it is likely that the windfall would go to the charitable trust that owns Bupa's assets. Dial-a-Cab, if floated, could be worth £7,000 to each of its taxi-driver members, and the AA and the RAC could concievably float.

The AA is essentially a members' club — albeit with a revenue last year of £543 million and a members' fund containing £139 million — which owns several subsidiary companies. Only individual members, about 4 million, are eligible to vote and thus able to benefit from any potential restructuring of the organisation. However, an AA spokesman is adamant that the organisation has absolutely no plans to change its structure. "This is a media exercise and we have no intention of even speculating about changes," a spokesman said.

The Co-operative organisations are perhaps the ripest cherry for carpetbaggers, but Andrew Regan's high-profile failed attempt to take over the non-food business of the Co-operative Wholesale Society suggests that windfalls from that sector may be some way off.



QUICK GUIDE TO CASHING-IN AT LIFE OFFICES

■ *Friends Provident, NPI, Scottish Life and Scottish Provident are favourites to demutualise, but Scottish Widows and Equitable Life are also frequently named.*

■ Investors must be in a life office with-profits fund to ensure a windfall on demutualisation. The cheapest method is a ten-year with-profits bond. Typical minimum investment is £2,500.

■ Poor investment performance may wipe out windfall gains. Fees and commission may be high, so carpetbaggers should pick execution-only brokers. Kohn Cougar, a Bristol financial adviser, says some non-traditional with-profits bonds may not qualify investors for membership.

■ A with-profits endowment policy, normally for mortgage repayment, should qualify though charges may be high and surrender values low.

■ Another way to benefit is by buying a second-hand endowment. Max Rosen, chief executive of the SEC, says that conversion bonuses could be as high as £15,000.

■ Chartwell Investment Management (01225 446556) has produced a 12-page guide to life-office carpetbagging priced at £5.

POTENTIAL FOR WINDFALLS

Building Societies	£10bn
Life Insurance	£7bn
General Insurance	£3bn
Others	£5bn
TOTAL*	£25bn

* *Until 2002. Source: HSBC Markets*

Trust to target both societies and life offices

This week JP Cairngorm, a small Edinburgh investment manager, unveils a £100 million investment trust which is designed to cash-in on the £290 billion that could be unlocked if every building society and the 15 largest life offices demutualised (Patrick Collinson writes).

Ken Murray, JP Cairngorm's chief executive, believes rationalisation will result in the United Kingdom having just six or seven financial groups by the turn of the century.

"This imminent restructuring will be the biggest single money-making opportunity in the United Kingdom for some years to come and will provide enormous potential for profit," Mr Murray said.

The trust, which is sponsored by HSBC James Capel, will be invested in a range of different stock market instruments. About one-third will be in permanent interest bearing securities issued by building societies, which will qualify for demutualisation windfalls.

Nearly a half will be placed in other fixed-interest investments, with the remainder in quoted stock market companies which may benefit from takeovers and rationalisation.

JP Cairngorm successfully launched a £14.5 million building-society only investment trust in April 1996. However, 15 months later the trust's share price is 102.5p, just two and half a pence (or 2.5 per cent) more than the launch price.

More encouraging than the trust's share price is its net asset value performance, which was up 14.3 per cent in the first year. However, those investors who had tracked the booming financial sector of the United Kingdom equity market would have enjoyed a gain of about 20 per cent over the past year.

The trust carries an annual charge of 1.25 per cent, compared with 0.5-0.6 per cent on a typical equity-investment trust, although as it is principally invested in fixed-interest securities, it can expect a yield of about 5 per cent.

John Syzmanowski, investment trust analyst at SBC Warburg, the securities house, said: "It looks relatively low risk but it is quite esoteric and looking for investment of £100 million is quite ambitious."

Some investors may also recall Mr Murray's earlier attempt to benefit from the restructuring of building societies.

Five years ago he was a key player behind the Bank of Edinburgh, which failed in its aim to acquire a number of societies and merge them into a single financial services group.

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Emerging anxieties

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Contagion is a worrying word for investors. The spread of currency crashes and falling stock markets right across the Asian tiger nations is certainly worrying, just when a stake in emerging markets was becoming *de rigueur* for portfolio advisers.

Much of the appeal of global emerging market funds is to pay experts such as Templeton's Mark Mobius to pick markets as well as stocks for you. Buying a fund devoted to a medium-sized economy abroad is like buying individual blue chips at home. Funds give a spread of economies as well as companies. Even in whole countries, high growth goes with high risk.

The idea that such a global fund can capture exciting growth without suffering global risks to asset prices might have carried a grain of truth for the pioneers. It has been an illusion for some time. The influence of American interest rates, for instance, reaches into the most obscure corner because it affects the climate in which foreign investors make their decisions.

In 1992-93, when US short-term rates stayed low, stock markets boomed from Bangkok to Bogota, along with American and European bond prices. In 1994, when America's Fed Funds rate doubled to 6 per cent, Western bond prices slumped and shares sagged. So did emerging markets, first in Asia, then in South America. And when the Mexican peso fell at year end, most Latin American currencies and shares fell with it. Asian markets were affected too, though less severely. By the end of 1994, American investors, by now a crucial force, had started to back the developing boom at home. They had a double motive for withdrawing funds.

Latin American shares fell by half in a few months on the MSCI dollar fund index. Since then, they have progressively recovered, finally scaling new peaks this year, helped by America's booming export and stock markets.

In emerging Asia, share prices fell about a fifth in the second half of 1994. Since then, the picture has grown ever gloomier. In Bangkok, the share index has been in free fall since early 1996. Malaysian shares recovered strongly in 1996 but have plummeted since January. In Singapore, prices sagged year by year. Hong Kong has been the greatest exception. Overall, Asian funds have been losing ground for four years. Since they account on average for a third of portfolios, most global emerging market funds have been lousy investments for a long time, going nowhere during a period when Wall Street shares doubled.

The new element is this summer's currency turmoil, which is really a hangover from 1994. Key Asian currencies have been pegged to the dollar. They survived the squall that felled weaker South American economies. But that has hurt them as competition from China has grown and their crucial Japanese market has been flat as the Pacific ocean. Japan had also provided a lot of the inward investment.

High interest rates finally triggered a debilitating financial crash in Thailand. There has been structural trouble in South Korea too. But Hong Kong, being part of China and trading mainly with America, has been immune from much of this and has been strong enough so far to shrug off the infection.

The typhoon season is far from over. The storm may be the end of one long process, but will require a period of painful economic adjustment, as happened in Latin America. This will have a political dimension and badly needs recovery in Japan.

Accepting that global spread does not immunise against global risks should not destroy the magic of emerging markets. The past four years have been dire, but over the longer period since the start of 1988, $100 invested in emerging market funds should still be worth about $500, against $350 on Wall Street. New countries and new regions will refresh the funds. China, India and Russia will become more important. Economic growth should, in the long run, still outpace the developed world. But much patience will be needed.

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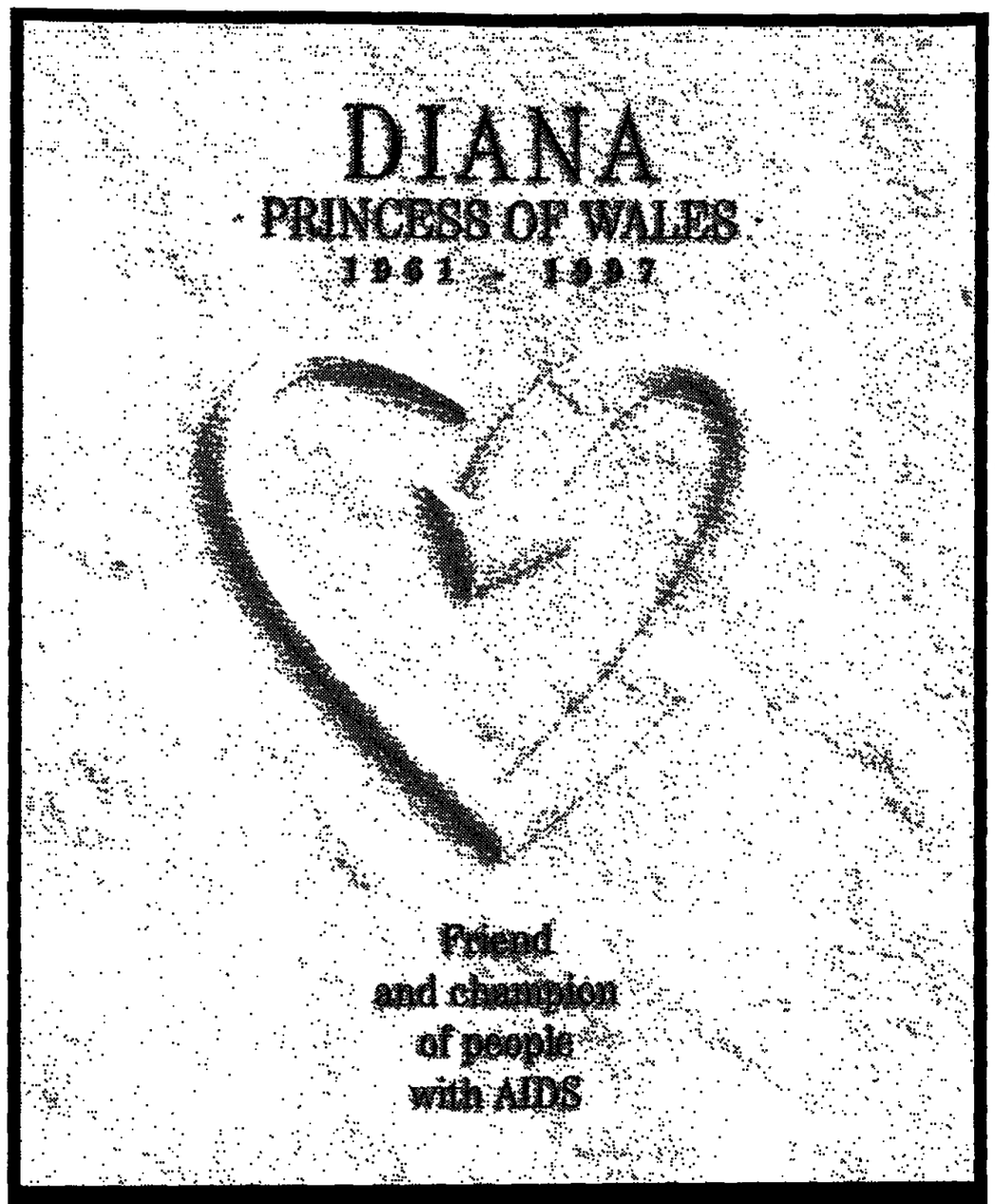
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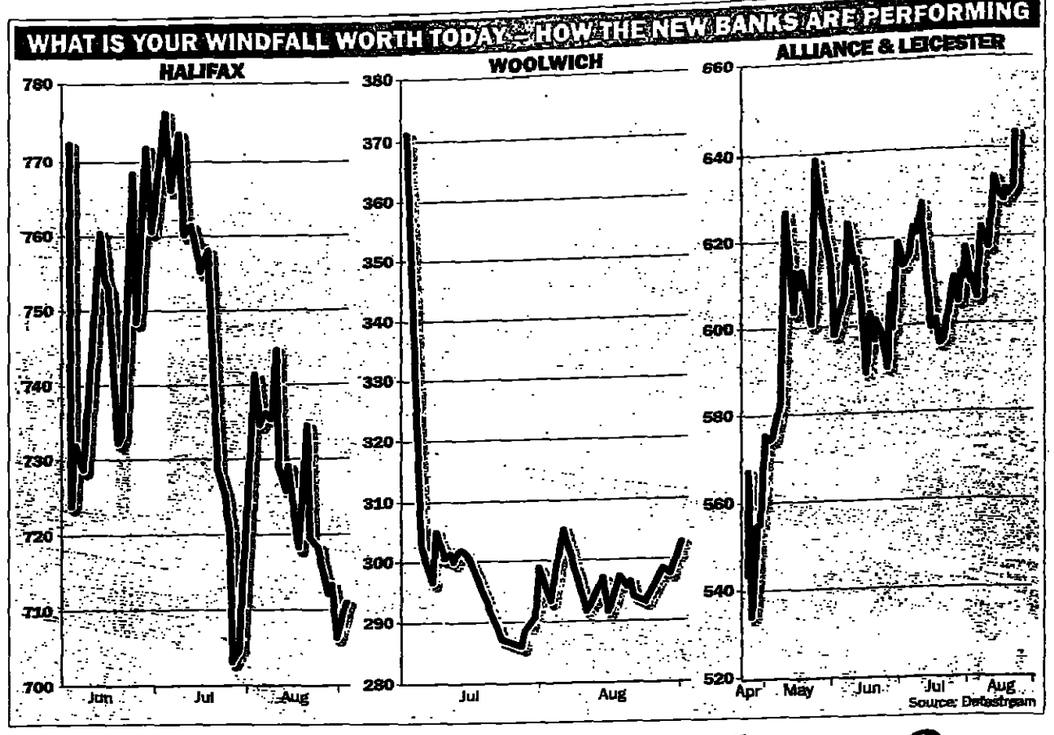
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Anne Ashworth seeks expert advice on Northern Rock's prospects



A solid rock of an investment

The flotation of the Northern Rock, the smallest society to come to the stock market this year, has been overshadowed by the other supersized conversions. But, as its October 1 market debut approaches, the Northern Rock is now seizing its share of the limelight.

This week, Wise Speke, the broker, forecast that the shares could open at 390p each, giving a windfall of £1,950. As those who are both borrowers and savers will be entitled to two sets of free shares, this could mean a total of £3,900.

Geoff Miller, Wise Speke banking analyst, said that Northern Rock was one of his firm's "preferred buys". He considers that the business, at this price, a cost-streamlined organisation, has considerable potential for growth, in contrast with some of the other recently converted societies.

James Johnson, banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais, is more cautious, looking more towards 360-390p. He points out there will be little bid premium in the price, as few expect that the Northern Rock will succumb to a predator. The law makes the takeover of a converted society very difficult, as it enjoys a five-year period of protection from predator. In theory, the converted society could be taken over, but 75 per cent of all shareholders would have to vote in favour. This protective shield would be lost if the society itself went on the takeover trail. But the Northern Rock says that it has no such plans. There is some speculation, however, that if the Northern Rock became acquisitive, it would be interested in a sizeable purchase, such as the Nationwide.

These City forecasts compare with the society's own estimate of 260-290p which would imply a windfall of £1,300 to £1,475. This estimate, made in February, has not been updated in spite of the recent surge in banking shares. When the society's conversion was announced in 1996, the value of the 500-share payout was estimated at £1,000.

The Northern Rock is now sending out forms asking whether members wish to sell or hold their shares. These forms must be returned by September 26. Those who wish to retain their stakes should complete form A, either opting to have their shares in a Northern Rock Shareholder Account or to get share certificates. The Shareholder Account is a nominee account, but customers will still be entitled to attend and vote at annual meetings. Those members wishing to sell must complete green form B. This service will cost £10 for every 500 shares. The soon-to-be-former society and its advisers hope to hold only one auction, on September 30. They believe that this will prevent institutional investors who are required to put in bids for the shares on offer from manipulating the prices.

Adam Applegarth, Northern Rock's executive director, believes that the activities of the institutions caused the wide fluctuations seen in the auction prices of the other converted societies. The Woolwich, one of the widely fluctuating stocks, has seen its price fall from a high of 372.5p on July 4 to 284.50p by July 28. However, the shares have recently rallied in advance of the stock's entry into the FTSE 100 index of leading shares on September 22.

Unlike the Northern Rock, the Woolwich appears to have little potential for growth but continues to be seen as a takeover stock. There is also some excitement that the new bank may announce a special distribution to shareholders next May. Mr Johnson considers that both Alliance & Leicester and Halifax appear unlikely to rise much further in the short term. He commented: "The Halifax is fully valued in relation to the other stocks in its peer group, including Abbey National."

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SOURCE: MICROPAL. BUY TO SELL BASIS WITH NET INCOME REINVESTED OVER PERIODS TO 1 AUGUST 1997. LAUNCH DATES: INTERNATIONAL GROWTH - 14/12/79; INTERNATIONAL INCOME - 17/1/89; GLOBAL GROWTH PEP - 2/1/94; JAPAN - 1/9/89; NORTH AMERICAN - 1/9/93; FAR EAST - 1/9/81.

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A funny thing happened on the way to a pension



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

A conspiracy is now afoot to persuade us that pensions are as easy as ABC. The mission of marketing men at pensions companies is to show that their plans are the ultimate uncomplicated, low-cost answer to a well-heeled retirement.

With the aid of every synonym for simple, they brush aside any suggestion that pensions are in any way tricky. But anyone tempted to believe these honeyed words should remember that many of the direct pensions companies are divisions of groups that have yet to compensate victims of mis-selling.

The Woolwich was not entangled in the pensions scandal. But its new plan is being promoted with the standard breezy phrases designed to make us think that taking out a pension is more fun than fun: "It's simple, it's adaptable, it's affordable." A kitchen appliance? No, a 30-year-old investment, governed by intricate tax rules.

The Woolwich's claims for its plan deserve further scrutiny. On page 37, we compare the costs of the Woolwich pension with other low-cost schemes.

Anyone thinking of taking out a pension would be wise to shop around. But finding out what sort of size of fund a 30-year old woman would receive for a monthly contribution of £100 proved strangely difficult. In their defence, the pension companies will argue that investor protection rules oblige them to hedge around every illustration with provisos.

There is, however, another reason for their apparent vagueness: they are anxious not to compare badly with their peers.

The Woolwich's promise to be affordable is certainly true. You can pay in as little as £30 a month. But you would not be living it up in your old age. Even our woman paying in £100 could only look forward to a pension of £13,000 — in 30 years' time when its value will be negligible.

Companies do not care to mention that to achieve a decent pension you need to invest a significant slice of your income. A percentage of your earnings equal to half your age is one rule of thumb for contributions. Such information could be offputting.

As part of its pensions review, the Government should assess the information given to prospective pension plan holders. A better balance needs to be struck between encouraging the nation to save and the need to emphasise the complexity and risks of pensions.

Instant profit

ABBEY NATIONAL'S decision to charge its Instant Plus customers £1 every time they join a queue is yet another sign of a growing indifference in the banking industry to those of modest means. Instant Plus is aimed at the young who are not the most profitable class of customer. Another less than welcome group at the Abbey are Instant Savers with less than £500 invested who have been excluded from the recent rate rises. At the Abbey, they have forgotten many of those in an Instant.

Most savings institutions, including many building societies, now offer their best rates to those with thousands to invest who can be encouraged to buy additional high-margin products (page 39).

At the newish Sainsbury's Bank, customers with £1 can still get a rate of 6.50 per cent, a rate which puts the mutuals to shame. But will such munificence still rule, when this institution decides to target only the moneyed?

An expensive new Abbey habit?

Karen Zagor reports on the resurgence of charges for normal banking transactions

Abbey National has this week once more shown customers that few things in life are free by introducing charges for transactions in its branches. So far, the charges are limited to the 400,000 holders of an Abbey Instant Plus account. They now have to pay £1 if they go into a branch to withdraw money, pay a bill, ask for a mini-statement or arrange for a cheque to be issued. Abbey says all of these transactions can be done equally well through an ATM machine.

An Abbey spokesman said: "The Instant Plus account, which was launched last year, was always meant to be a purely automated banking account. But one year on many of these customers are going into branches to do transactions and the queues are lengthening. So we have brought in charges to encourage customers to use the machines. There is nothing that can be done in the branch that couldn't be done outside."

Customers who decide to fork out the extra money for the comfort of banking inside the branch should note that they will be charged £1 for every transaction. So if they decide to withdraw some cash, get a mini-statement and pay a bill inside the branch, they will pay a total of £3. Abbey's spokesman promises that Instant Plus customers will not be penalised if the ATMs are not working and they need to go into a branch. "If there's a problem with the ATMs, they will not be charged, but if they come into the branch because the queues are too long outside, they will. There is an element of discretion," he said.

So far, Abbey has promised not to bring in similar charges for the 1.6 million customers of its main account. But there is widespread belief that charges are the way of the future for current accounts, even for those who remain in credit.

Free banking is a relatively new concept. It was introduced in the mid-1980s and has proved so popular that there has been an outcry each time the banks have threatened to rescind it. Banks already pass on the charges for debits to customers who run up overdrafts, but free banking for those in credit is expensive for banks so, instead of unilaterally bringing in charges, banks have slowly started to insert fees into a handful of new products. Presumably, as the number of fee-based accounts increases, the idea of paying for a bank account will seem more tolerable and the banks will be able to extend charges to their standard current accounts.

Barclays was the first to slip fees into its current account roster when it brought in Barclays Additions last year. The idea is that customers will think it worth paying £5 a month for "value-added services". These include a free will-writing service, £5,000 of free life assurance cover, private children's medical insurance for £2.50 per child per month, a 24-hour legal helpline and purchase protection on debit card purchases above £50. These additions, while nice enough, are probably not worth the monthly charge unless family medical insurance is a concern.

For customers who regularly slip in and out of the red, however, the overdraft set-up may more than compensate for the fees. Barclays Additions customers pay no charges or interest for overdrafts of £100. Depending on personal circumstances, they may be able to arrange an overdraft of up to £5,000 with no usage fee.

TSB's Select account, launched in January, has a similar structure. For a fee of £3 a month, customers face no charges if they inadvertantly run up an overdraft of £50. The extra frills on the account include £500 off the price of a new car and telephone shopping with free delivery for a range of 75,000 consumer goods such as beds and electrical goods.

Abbey's latest move, while not dramatic in itself, contributes to a culture where paying for banking is acceptable. For consumers, the fear is that the UK will eventually follow America, where bank fees are a fact of life. Chase Manhattan is not unusual in demanding a balance of £2,000 in a cheque account or £3,000 split between a cheque and savings account, for free banking. Customers whose balances fall below these limits face a monthly maintenance charge of £6, plus charges for every transaction.

At a time when more and more UK financial institutions are introducing charges, it is good to see that some are still dedicated to free banking. In January, Midland Bank introduced an account "to reverse the trend of complex, fee-based accounts", a spokesman said. Like the TSB and Barclays accounts, the Midland account comes with an overdraft buffer zone, in this case £50. In addition, there is no arrangement fee for overdrafts up to £3,000. Customers in credit can withdraw up to £200 a day, have access to a debit card and can transfer funds to linked savings accounts at the same branch for no fee, provided they are in credit. "And we don't charge if you want to use the counter instead of the ATM," a spokesman said.



Back to the way we were: banks made charges for normal transactions until the 1980s

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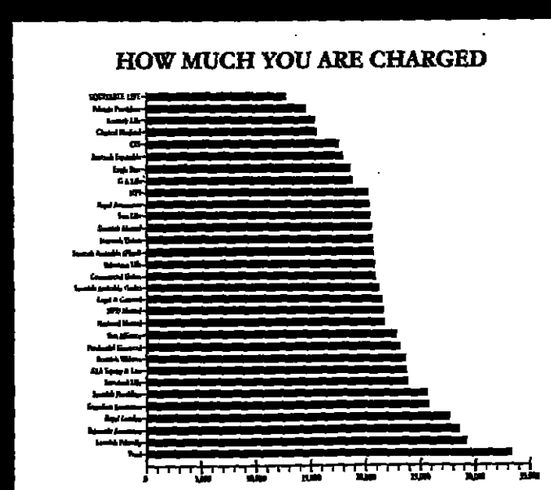
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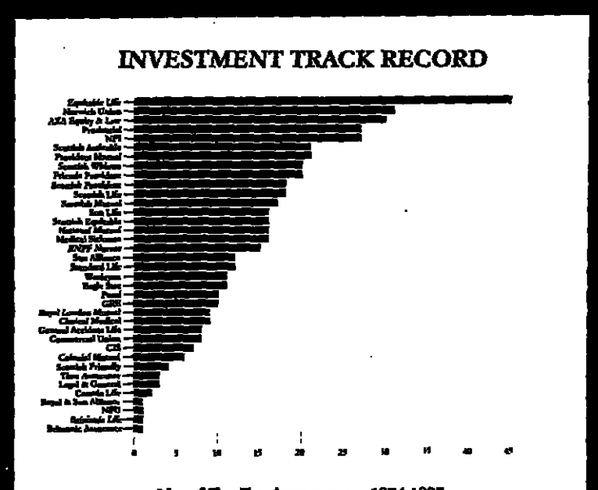
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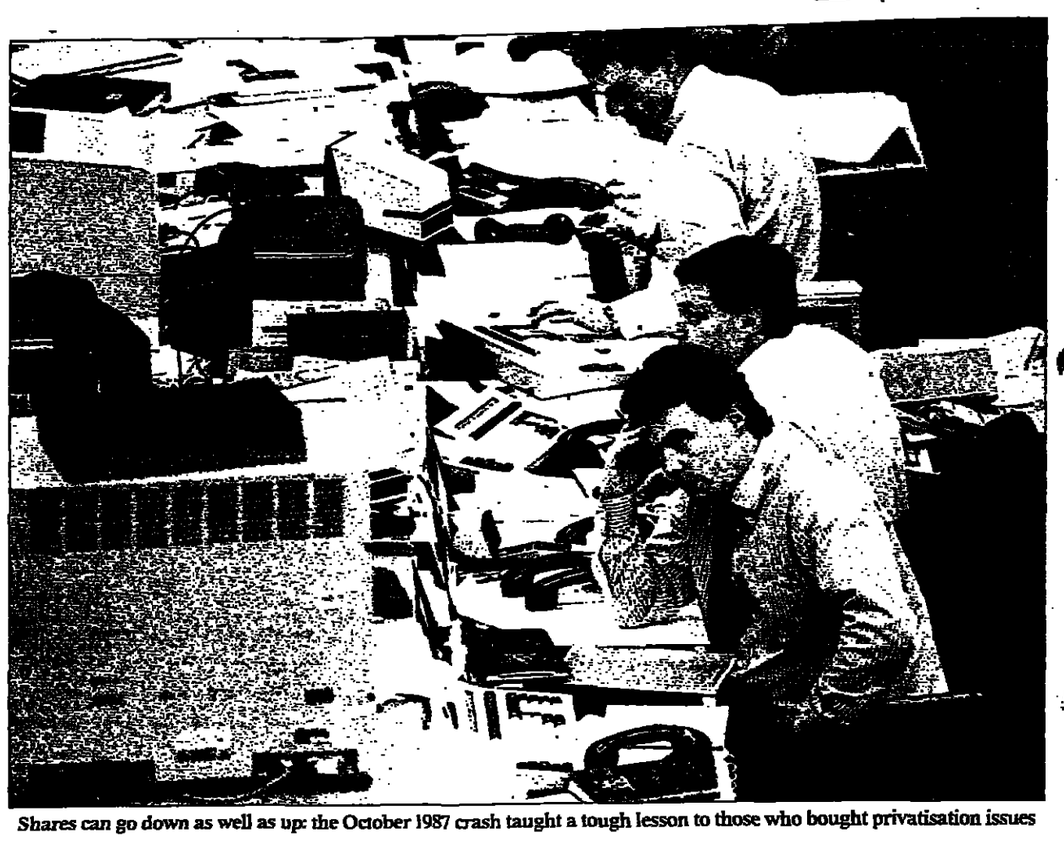
The Equitable Life
You profit from our principles

Gavin Lumsden starts a series for those who have just become shareholders for the first time

Take a stake in Britain plc

This year will go down in history for turning millions of people into shareholders for the first time. More than £35 billion of free shares have been handed out to members of the Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Woolwich, and Norwich Union after their decisions to shed their mutual status and transform themselves into companies that are quoted on the stock market. The Northern Rock follows next month.

The scale of this bonanza has been unprecedented, dwarfing even the privatisations of the Eighties. In spite of expectations that these new shareholders would cash in their shares as soon as possible, millions have kept them. Just 30 per cent of the 7.6 million beneficiaries of the Halifax flotation have sold their shares, leaving 5.32 million on the register. In this new Weekend Money series, we will answer the questions being asked by this new group of shareholders and cover every aspect of share ownership. Topics will include understanding share prices and ratios, how to read the share pages and how to find a broker. This week we start with the basics.



Shares can go down as well as up: the October 1987 crash taught a tough lesson to those who bought privatisation issues

Q What does being a shareholder mean? What factors will move the share price?

A Having shares makes you one of the owners of the company, with a stake in its future. The value of your investment will fluctuate with the fortunes of the company. It will be affected by developments in the company's sector. Converted building societies are in the banks sector.

The performance or the expected performance of the company will be a big influence. In theory, when a company does well its shares will rise in value, when it does badly its shares will fall.

Q What risks are involved in share ownership?

A Investing in the stock market nvolves a measure of risk, with some shares being inherently more risky than others. You can lessen the risk by having a portfolio, spreading your cash over a number of shares. It is this element of risk that distinguishes share ownership from a building society account where your money is secure and earns a modest amount of interest.

However, there is a golden rule of investment that is worth bearing in mind — you only get rewarded for taking risks. Even a building society account involves a level of risk. Interest rates can change and over the long term your money may not be protected from inflation.

Shares, on the other hand, offer two potential benefits. One is the prospect of capital growth if the share price rises. In addition quoted companies aim to distribute a proportion of their profits to shareholders in the form of dividends.

Q How do dividends work and are they subject to tax?

A Dividends are usually paid twice a year, with shareholders receiving an interim and a final dividend. Companies deduct tax at the rate of 20 per cent from dividends before they are paid out. Basic rate taxpayers have no further liability. But higher rate taxpayers must pay an additional 20 per cent.

Even though they are liable to income tax, dividends can substantially increase the value of your investment. The Alliance & Leicester, for example, will pay an interim dividend of 6.4p per share on October 20. Members who have held on to the 250 shares they received in April will get £16 before tax. A&L will pay a final dividend for the year in May 1998 which it aims to make twice as large as the interim. This makes £48 in total, before tax. In the meantime, A&L's shares continue to rise, up 112p to 645p since flotation.

The Halifax, meanwhile, is not paying an interim dividend but will pay a total dividend in May.

Dividends are the hidden jewel in the stock market crown. In the past ten years the FTSE All-share index, which measures the average performance of companies quoted on the London Stock Exchange, has achieved a capital return of 98.55 per cent. In other words, had you invested £1,000 across all the companies in the index and spent all the dividends you had received you would still have £1,985.47. Not a bad result. If you had reinvested all your dividend income in more shares, you would now be sitting on £2,802.86.

Q Is this not a bad time to be holding shares? Are we now due for another slump?

A We are close to the anniversary of "Black Monday" on October 19, 1987, the most significant stock market crash of our era. In two days the All-share fell 11.5 per cent to 952. By November 9 it had collapsed by more than a quarter as investors rushed to get their money out of shares.

The index subsequently recovered and now stands close to 2,300, nearly three times its post-crash level. Such has been the success of the stock market since Black Monday that many think another "correction" is in the offing. If so, the only way to protect yourself is to invest money you will not need again in the short term. This way you can watch the performance of the markets with Buddhist-like calm.

INVESTMENT
A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

Even without a general market collapse, you can suffer if the company in which you hold shares does badly or decides not to pay a dividend. The best way to protect yourself against this is to spread your money around. Constructing your own portfolio of shares requires a lot of money to be effective, and will take up a lot of your time unless you pay a stockbroker to do it for you.

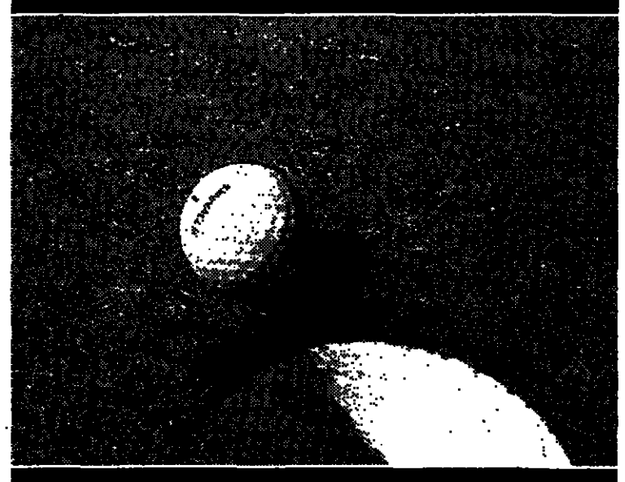
Q How much do I need to invest?

A You can start with a modest amount, but should eventually be aiming for a portfolio of £50,000, which will enable you to spread your risk. However, the same effect can be achieved with much less invested in a selection of collective funds, such as unit or investment trusts. If, like most people, you are looking to invest a £1,000 lump sum or regularly save £50 a month, the best option is to put your money into one of these funds. These funds work on the old adage of not putting all your eggs in one basket by investing in a broad range of shares. In theory, at least, if one fails the others will grow. They are an even more attractive investment if they are part of a personal equity plan.

If you are still holding shares in converted building societies it might be worth considering selling them to reinvest the proceeds in a diversified fund. Although financial stocks such as the Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax have been among the best stock market performers this year, they are unlikely to remain on top for long. Even if financial stocks do not actually fall, shares from other sectors are likely to catch them up. Charles Levett-Scrivener of Towry Law, the financial adviser, says now is a good time to take a profit. Technical reasons, such as the shortage of stock for institutions, have pushed the shares of A&L and Halifax artificially high, but will fade soon, he reckons.



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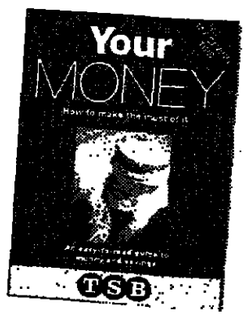
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Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may get back less than they originally invested. †Source: Micropal, mid to mid, net income reinvested as at 1.8.97
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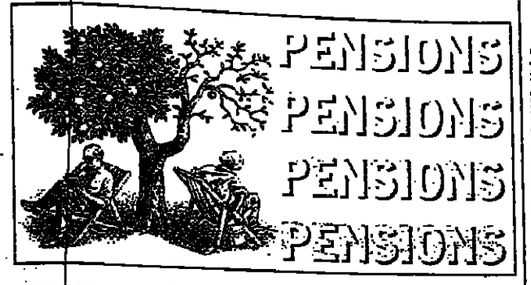
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Woolwich looks to the age of retirement

The newly floated Woolwich entered the pensions fray this week, with what it claims is a no-frills, value-for-money plan aimed at customers who do not have a company pension.

But a snapshot survey by *The Times* shows that the new Woolwich pension has higher charges than the low-cost telephone-based rivals, such as Legal & General Direct and Virgin Direct. The survey also shows that in spite of strenuous efforts by regulators to enable consumers to shop around, buying a pension is still a baffling and arduous task. Anyone attempting to arrange a pension needs information on future performance and the different investment options available. Our survey showed that the information was both difficult to obtain and to assess. The pension shopper has to compare bid/offer spreads, annual charges, allocation rates, and a host of differing product features such as waiver of premium, optional life cover and contracting out.

We compared Woolwich's new offering with Eagle Star Direct, Scottish Widows, Legal & General Direct and Virgin Direct. Each company was asked to supply a quote for a 30-year-old woman putting in £100 each month for the next 30 years, adding up to a total of £36,000 in contributions.

The result? The highest return, assuming a 9 per cent growth in the investment every year (see below) comes from Legal & General, which projects a pension pot of £146,000 in total after charges. This would provide a pension, on current annuity rates, of £13,000 per annum. Woolwich forecasts a payout of £133,000, the same as Eagle Star, while Scottish Widows and Virgin are slightly higher at £135,000 and £13533 respectively.

Robin Johnson, Woolwich pensions operations director, said: "We've built into our pensions lots of flexibility, and face-to-face advice. We're not flogging pensions on the cheapest possible basis, but we are aiming at being in the top quartile of all pension providers on charges, and for all time period, not just over 30 years."

Woolwich, while not the cheapest, is part of the price revolution sweeping through the pensions industry. A Consumers' Association spokesman said: "We thought we'd be against the new direct and telesales operations. But what they have done is generally move charges down, addressed people's need for flexibility and avoided loading policies with very heavy early charges."

Pension buyers have to be extremely cautious in relying upon illustrations and projections provided by pension companies as the basis for their decisions.

■ **Projections.** The investor watchdogs require that pension companies give a forecast of possible future returns by using standardised projection rates, of 6, 9 and 12 per cent a year. There is absolutely no guarantee that investments will grow at this level. Growth rates of above 12 per cent were common in the 1980s, but the low-inflation 1990s have seen investment returns at lower nominal rates. The figure quoted for the annual pension is misleading as it is based on today's annuity rates, when no one knows what annuity rates will be when someone retires. Neither can the figures take account of future inflation.

■ **Performance.** Actual returns vary enormously between different pension companies, and poor returns can easily wipe out the gains from low charges. Woolwich will use Mercury Asset Management, which has had top-ranking performance in the past, to look after its personal pension plan. But past performance is no guarantee of future returns.

■ **Investment Options.** The two cheapest pension companies in our survey, L&G and Virgin, do not give investors a choice about where their money can be invested. It all goes into cheap-to-run "index trackers" that mirror the returns of the FTSE. Index trackers are narrower in focus and more volatile than with-profit funds offered by other companies, which aim to smooth the fluctations of the market.

■ **Advice.** The level of charges in a pension partly reflects the amount of advice provided.

PATRICK COLLINSON

LOW-COST PENSION PLANS

Quotes are based on a 30 year-old paying £100 per month for 30 years and 9 percent growth pa.

■ Woolwich
Projected sum: £133,000
Total deductions: £15,500
Charges: initially nil, monthly fee £2.50, annual charge 1 per cent.

■ Scottish Widows
Projected sum: £135,000
Total deductions: £10,500
Charges: Bid/offer spread 5 percent, annual 0.875 fee in years 1-15. Plan fee £2.06.

■ Leal & General
Projected sum: £146,000
Total deductions: £8,880
Charges: bid/offer spread of 5 per cent plus 102.2 per cent allocation rate. Equates to initial charge of about 3 per cent. Annual charge 0.5 per cent, monthly fee £1.50.

■ Virgin Direct
Projected sum: £137,533.
Total deductions: £13,002.
Charges: None initially, 1 per cent annual fee, falling to 0.7 per cent in last ten years. £2 per month.

■ Eagle Star
Projected sum: £133,000
Total deductions: £15,700
Charges: 1 per cent annual charge, £2 monthly fee.

STUDY THESE PEP NUMBERS.

PEP Fund	Initial PEP charge	Average annual growth (5yrs)
Save & Prosper Growth Pep	0%*	27%†
Fidelity International Pep	5¼%	21%
Perpetual Pep Growth	5¼%	19%
Morgan Grenfell Int. Growth	5¼%	17%
Invesco International Growth	3%	16%
Barclays Unicorn Worldwide	5¼%	15%

*Subject to 0.5% Government Stamp Duty

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† All figures are based on buying to selling price with gross income reinvested over 5 years to 1.8.97. Source: Micropal. The value of investments, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax concessions are not guaranteed; their value will depend on individual circumstances. Exchange rates may also affect performance. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. On 24.5.96 the investment objective of the fund (formerly known as Scotbits) was broadened from investment in financial services to investment in any economic sector. Tax concessions can change and their value will depend on your circumstances. It was announced in the 1997 budget that from 6th April 1997 the income tax credit will no longer be reclaimable in a PEP and that other tax benefits may change with the planned introduction of a new individual savings account. Save & Prosper Group is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. We only advise on products and services offered by the Flemings and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.
1892/007

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Advice for elderly on investments

Help the Aged's updated leaflet *Managing a Lump Sum* provides a good starting point for senior citizens wishing to save or invest their money. The guide assesses the levels of risk attached to different investments, gives advice on how to judge the suitability of financial packages, such as National Savings Pensioners Bonds. Peps and unit trusts, and suggests how to draw up a personal investment plan. Included is a list of do's and don'ts, for example, do think carefully about you and your partner's age before tying up money in medium or long-term investments and don't invest money in an area of risk if you cannot afford to lose it. To obtain a free copy, send a SAE to Help the Aged, Information Department, St James's Walk, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0BE.

☐ A free telephone service has been launched to help those needing advice about money problems. The Foundation for Credit Counselling offers confidential assistance from a trained counsellor and if it is appropriate, a debt repayment schedule will be drawn up for you. Since the Consumer Credit Counselling Service was established as a charity in 1993, more than £6.5 million has been repaid to creditors. Call 0800 138 1111.

☐ If you are looking to buy a car on finance, a guide has been published that will steer you through the maze of options available. The leaflet, produced by Lombard Motor Finance, answers some of the more common customer queries, such as whether it is possible to change the date when repayments are due and if the monthly amounts on a fixed-rate agreement can be increased. The guide explains the terms conditional sale, personal contract purchase, credit protection insurance and personal leasing. For a copy of *Dealing with Finance*, Call 01737 776363.

☐ A fact sheet has been published that explains the difference between fee-based and commission-based advice, plus the pros and cons of each. *How is Your IFA Paid?* includes a list of questions you should ask your adviser, including how will their charges affect the returns you get on your investments? Call 0117 971 1177 for a free copy.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	6.50	Yly
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	Inst Access	Postal	£500	6.65	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	InstantB	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0845 6088860	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.80	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£5,000	7.25	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.55	Yly
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarborough 120	120 day	£5,000	7.50	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	7.65	Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.60	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.55	Yly
Midland Bank 0800 180180		5 year	£100	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS' BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

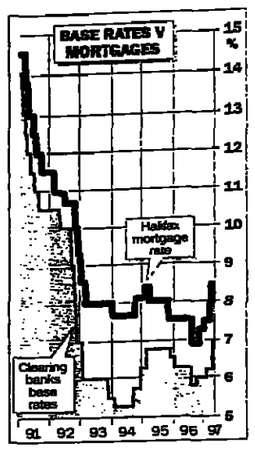
PERSONAL LOANS' BEST BUYS

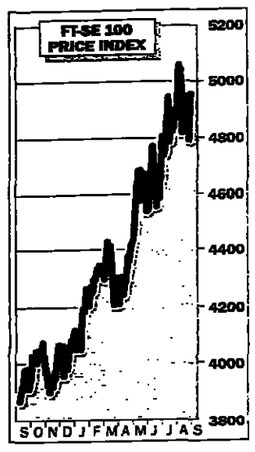
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
Hamilton Direct Bank 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£166.65
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c†	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0845 645000
Investment A/c*§	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**#	1mth	0845 645000
Income Bond*§	6.50	5.20	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0845 645000
First Opt Bond§	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0845 645000
44th Issue Cert's§	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0845 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0845 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0845 645000
Capital Bonds§	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0845 645000
11th Ind Linked†§	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0845 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3§	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000§	60day	0845 645000

first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, #1st accs for up to £100 † Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds: †Tax free *Rates gross and vble §Guaranteed when held for 5 years 40.2% net bonus for £20,000+ #£100,000 pa in addition to S1 and S2 holdings †taxable but cred in full ?£500-100,000 earn higher rates.**Tiered rates apply.*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,00 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in avance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life.....Level		£ 9,430	£10,516	£11,997
Norwich Un.....Level		£ 9,578	£10,512	£11,816
Equitable Lf.....Level		£ 9,534	£10,482	£11,675
Sun Lf of Can.....Level		£ 9,359	£10,412	£11,848
Prudential .....Level		£ 9,452	£10,374	£11,693
SINGLE LIFE	**Female:**	**Age 60**	**Age 65**	**Age 70**
Prudential .....Level		£8,977	£ 9,872	£10,986
Norwich Un .....Level		£9,010	£ 9,729	£10,805
Generali .....Level		£8,697	£ 9,618	£10,885
Canada Life .....Level		£8,727	£ 9,543	£10,734
Sun Lf of Can.....Level		£8,609	£ 9,362	£10,464
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Female:	Age 60 Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Norwich Un .....Level		£8,567	£9,097	£ 9,761
Prudential .....Level		£8,499	£9,032	£ 9,851
Canada Life .....Level		£8,295	£8,921	£ 9,807
Generali .....Level		£8,225	£8,873	£ 9,763
Equitable Lf.....Level		£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 4. 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.05
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.80*
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.50
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
	50,000	AIG Life	6.66
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.85
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.20
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.20
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.70

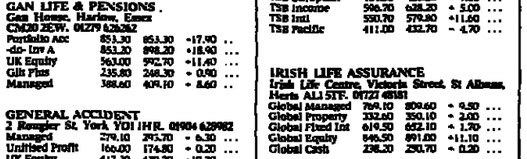
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	119.29	7.830	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	143.73	8.088	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	160.64	8.093	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	160.84	8.083	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	150.98	7.979	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	143.16	8.207	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	165.86	8.064	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	132.41	8.083	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	156.03	8.092	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	155.27	8.131	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	159.69	8.063	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	118.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	104.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed at 5.24% to 1.1.2000
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	£15k+	85	2.10% discount for 2 years
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mths
Bristol & West 0117 979 2222	2.90	no max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	0.99	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% dsc-12 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.61%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Abbey National 01908 343400	4.99	to £125k	75	Fixed at 4.99% to 31.10.99

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01248 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6%dsc-6m,1.49% dsc-6mth,i99%-ly
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discont for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% dic 6 mths 3% disc fmths
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.45	£25-250k	95	3% dsc-3.9.99, 0.5%ovenvr-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (0171 880482).

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UNIT TRUSTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE				
0131 339 9191				
Balanced	575.80	609.40	+12.60	...
UK Equity	781.30	826.80	+21.60	...
Property	445.50	471.50	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	371.70	393.40	+ 3.10	...
Money	277.70	293.90	+ 0.10	...
International	482.50	510.60	+16.60	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth				
BH8 8AL				
01202 292373				
Custodian S4	214.40	225.70	+ 1.90	...
Ethical S4	175.90	185.20	+ 1.80	...
International S4	279.60	294.30	+ 1.30	...
Protected Gth S4	130.30	137.20	- 0.30	...
Asian Pacific	205.30	216.20	- 2.30	...
European S4	264.50	278.50	+11.00	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	433.80	456.70	+ 0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	307.30	323.50	- 5.30	...
Man Ser 4	869.80	915.60	-11.00	...
Conv Ser 4	304.70	320.90	- 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	364.30	383.50	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	421.80	444.10	+ 1.20	...
American Ser 4	857.30	902.50	+39.80	...
High Inc Ser 4	949.90	999.90	+16.60	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	239.70	252.40	+ 0.20	...
Japan Ser 4	306.70	322.90	+ 6.70	...
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ				
01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2167.60	2281.60	+37.10	...
European Fd Acc	568.90	598.80	+ 18.30	...
Fixed Int Acc	602.20	633.90	+ 1.60	...
Gtd Money Acc	371.00	390.50	- 0.30	...
Ind Managed Acc	850.90	895.60	+20.30	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	779.00	820.00	+ 9.50	...
Japan Fund	260.80	274.40	+ 8.90	...
N American Acc	506.90	533.50	+21.50	...
Prop Fd Acc	503.40	529.90	+ 0.40	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1347.90	1418.80	+24.00	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL				
01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	416.50	438.50	- 0.30	...
Property Acc	1961.70	2065.00	+55.80	...
Far East Acc	713.30	750.90	- 1.10	...
Managed Capital	680.20	716.00	+14.00	...
-do- Acc	1474.10	1551.70	+33.00	...
Overseas Acc	1393.60	1466.80	+39.00	...
Gilt Edged Acc	593.80	625.10	- 0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	1393.60	1467.00	-51.80	...
Amer Man Acc	575.60	605.90	+19.90	...
Amer Prop Acc	1259.00	1325.50	+ 3.40	...
Distribution Bonds	26.90	28.40	+ 0.40	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks				
01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	195.80	195.50	- 0.90	...
Balnd Ser 6	973.60	1024.80	+ 24.50	...
Opportunity Ser 6	227.10	239.00	+ 1.10	6.40
Distribution Ser 6	104.50	115.20	+ 1.10	6.40
UK Equities Ser 6	1467.40	1544.60	+38.40	...
Higher Inv Ser 6	1490.70	1570.20	+36.80	...
Int Fxd Int Ser 6	324.00	339.90	+34.20	...
Far East Ser 6	563.30	592.90	+ 9.90	...
Europe Ser 6	572.90	603.00	+21.60	...
Intnl Ser 6	757.50	797.30	+28.50	...
Property Ser 6	627.00	660.00	+ 0.80	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	520.00	547.30	+ 4.80	...
Ind-Linkd Sec 96	209.20	220.20	...	...
Guard Dep Ser 6	332.10	349.50	+ 0.40	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB				
0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1256.30	1322.50	+29.40	...
-do- Initial	753.60	793.30	+17.60	...
Gilt Edged Acc	472.80	497.70	+ 1.90	...
-do- Initial	286.10	301.20	+ 1.20	...
International Acc	934.60	931.20	+14.90	...
-do- Initial	303.40	319.40	- 5.90	...
Managed Acc	714.70	752.40	+16.30	...
-do- Initial	431.30	454.00	- 9.90	...
Money Acc	323.90	341.00	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	336.60	354.40	+ 0.20	...
-do- Initial	202.40	213.10	...	...
America Acc	479.70	505.00	+23.20	...
Far East Gwth	240.90	253.60	- 2.30	...
Financial Acc	569.90	599.80	-10.70	...
500 Accum	534.40	562.60	+ 2.00	...
Japan Acc	241.60	254.70	+ 7.40	...
Income Acc	324.90	341.00	+13.70	...
Special Sits Acc	383.80	404.10	+ 8.50	...
Univ Tech Acc	208.10	219.10	+ 6.80	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF				
01634 834080				
The Managed Fd	1072.70	1072.70	+15.60	...
Fixed Interest	1040.13	1116.14	+25.54	...
Extra Income	980.33	1000.39	+16.81	...
Worldwide Gth	620.01	652.65	+ 6.19	...
Balanced Fund	928.99	977.89	+16.78	...
Smlr Cos Recov	1080.00	1136.85	+ 9.57	...
N Amer & Genrl	570.36	600.38	+15.84	...
Pacific Basin	385.91	406.23	-17.63	...
German Growth	309.63	325.93	+ 3.87	...
Japan Growth	176.78	186.08	+ 2.21	...
The UK Gth Fd	301.47	317.34	+ 5.23	...
Cntl Euro Gth	193.63	203.83	+ 1.93	...
Property Fund	437.88	460.93	+ 0.77	...
Fixed Interest	394.05	414.85	+ 2.42	...
Cash Fund	334.63	331.19	+ 0.23	...
Managed Inv	637.15	670.68	+ 9.71	...
Nth Amer Recov	366.02	385.29	+ 8.35	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	516.37	543.55	- 2.72	...
BRITANNIA				
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR				
0141 248 2800				
Measured Perf	230.70	244.20	+ 6.10	...
Performance Plus	270.00	285.70	+ 2.80	...
With Profit Perf	196.40	207.80	+ 0.20	...
UK Opportunity	301.00	318.40	+ 9.20	...
Extra Opportunity	325.20	344.00	+15.00	...
North Amer Opp	302.30	319.80	+11.30	...
Far East Opp	230.00	232.70	- 2.60	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	178.80	188.20	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.50	229.10	...	...
Fixed Int	245.40	259.60	+ 0.90	...
Cash	176.20	185.50	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	311.20	329.30	+ 3.20	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	480.30	508.80	+ 8.40	...
UK Equity	910.40	958.40	+18.50	...
Property	298.80	314.60	...	...
Money Market	279.10	293.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	358.50	375.30	+ 1.40	...
Japan	321.20	338.20	+ 8.00	...
North America	269.00	283.20	+10.00	...
International	480.50	506.30	+ 5.00	...
European	415.50	437.40	+19.10	...
Far East	162.90	171.50	- 1.90	...
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA				
01707 51122				
Managed	439.90	463.10	+ 0.50	...
Property	286.90	302.00	+ 0.40	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	285.70	300.80	+ 1.30	...
Equity	543.00	571.60	+ 9.90	...
Cash	237.90	250.50	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	520.70	548.10	+14.90	...
CLife Intl Fd	450.80	474.60	+ 9.40	...
Managed Fund	839.30	988.70	+14.00	...
Property Fund	583.00	613.70	+ 0.50	...
Equity Fund	1340.10	1410.60	+24.50	...
Gilt Edged Fd	737.00	775.80	+ 3.20	...
Deposit Fund	347.90	387.30	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd	598.60	628.50	+13.50	...
International	650.70	684.90	+10.10	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Seatoy House, 500 Avebury Blvd,				
Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 696101				
Property Fund	189.30	199.30	...	...
Managed Fund	862.20	907.60	+16.70	...
Equity Fund	529.10	557.00	+12.50	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/ FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrows Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	382.40	402.50	+ 8.90	...
Ruby	215.10	226.50	+ 4.90	...
Emerald	167.20	176.10	+ 0.10	...
Equity	492.90	497.30	+11.30	...
Property	250.70	263.90	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	247.30	260.40	+ 0.10	...
Indexed Secs	192.10	202.20	+ 0.30	...
Cash	207.50	214.50	+ 0.10	...
Nth American	380.60	400.70	+15.20	...
Far East	300.50	316.40	+ 7.50	...
International	307.60	323.80	+ 9.50	...
Special Sits	482.90	508.40	+ 1.80	...
Int Income	422.70	445.00	+ 0.50	...
European	489.70	515.50	+18.40	...
Japanese	122.10	128.60	+ 4.40	...
UK Opportunity	301.00	318.40	+ 9.20	...
Extra Opportunity	325.20	344.00	+15.00	...
North Amer Opp	302.30	319.80	+11.30	...
Far East Opp	230.00	232.70	- 2.60	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	178.80	188.20	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.50	229.10	...	...
Fixed Int	245.40	259.60	+ 0.90	...
Cash	176.20	185.50	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	311.20	329.30	+ 3.20	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	480.30	508.80	+ 8.40	...
UK Equity	910.40	958.40	+18.50	...
Property	298.80	314.60	...	...
Money Market	279.10	293.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	358.50	375.30	+ 1.40	...
Japan	321.20	338.20	+ 8.00	...
North America	269.00	283.20	+10.00	...
International	480.50	506.30	+ 5.00	...
European	415.50	437.40	+19.10	...
Far East	162.90	171.50	- 1.90	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime,				
Kent ME4 4YT. 01634 890 000				
(Units: Key ‡				
-do- Pacemaker ‡	274.25	...	...	...
-do- Equity	426.69	...	...	...
-do- Equity	223.71	235.48	...	...
-do- Fxd Int	742.98	782.08	...	...
-do- Managed	433.19	455.99	...	...
-do- Property	525.13	552.77	...	...
(Pens: Cash Cap	381.68	401.77	...	...
-do- Equity Cap	217.69	229.16	...	...
-do- Equity Inv	1040.10	2051.70	...	...
-do- Fixed Cap	3140.15	3305.43	...	...
-do- Fixed Inv	464.45	488.91	...	...
-do- Index Cap	748.27	787.87	...	...
-do- Index Inv	217.89	229.36	...	...
-do- Mngd Cap	350.93	369.18	...	...
-do- Mngd Inv	784.11	806.34	...	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1231.05	1295.85	...	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (S) ‡	1111.42	...	+10.02	...
Var Ann (S) ‡	123.48	...	+10.26	...
Prime Managed	536.50	564.80	+11.70	...
Prime UK Equity	711.10	748.60	+14.90	...
Prime Int Equity	367.70	387.10	+ 8.90	...
Prime Property	265.00	279.00	+ 0.30	...
Prime Fxd Int	274.60	289.10	+ 0.10	...
Prime Index-Link	193.20	203.40	...	...
Prime Cash	228.60	240.70	+ 0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN				
01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1695.60	1542.70	+ 1.90	...
Equity II	2211.60	2328.00	+ 1.90	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpelier Drive, Cheltenham, GL50 1XQ.				
01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut Wth Pltr (5&6) ‡	118.20	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	110.40	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3) ‡	130.00	...	+ 2.50	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	130.80	...	+ 2.90	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	121.40	...	+ 3.00	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	112.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	316.70	333.40	+ 7.20	...
Managed S1	314.20	330.80	+ 6.30	...
Adventurous S1	252.10	265.40	+ 6.40	...
Managed (2)	212.80	224.00	+ 4.30	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	412.80	427.80	+10.10	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pns (5) ‡	116.30	...	+ 0.10	...
Secure (2) ‡	111.00	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) ‡	129.00	...	+ 3.10	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	131.30	...	+ 3.50	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	122.30	...	+ 3.00	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	112.90	...	+ 0.10	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH				
01722 413366				
Managed	420.60	442.80	+10.30	...
UK Equity	587.10	618.00	+13.10	...
Stewardship	486.40	512.10	+ 2.80	...
Overseas Equity	384.70	404.20	+12.10	...
North American	241.40	254.20	+ 9.40	...
Pacific Basin	177.60	187.30	+ 2.50	...
European	380.40	400.50	+15.00	...
Property	197.20	207.60	...	...
Fixed Interest	288.00	303.20	+ 0.60	...
Index Linked	193.60	203.80	+ 0.10	...
Cash	223.60	235.40	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	637.90	671.40	+ 4.40	...
Managed	944.40	994.10	+23.60	...
Deposit	381.60	401.60	+ 0.20	...
Property	558.90	588.30	+ 0.60	...
American	675.20	710.70	+29.40	...
Australian	710.90	748.30	+11.20	...
European	897.90	945.00	+40.30	...
Income Acc	1032.20	1086.50	-22.90	...
-do- Dist	962.90	962.90	-15.10	4.47
International	409.30	430.80	+13.60	...
Japan Smaller	141.30	148.70	+ 1.40	...
Singapore & Mal	398.40	419.30	+ 1.60	...
Smaller Cos	601.50	633.10	+18.20	...
Tokyo Fund	620.80	653.40	+16.80	...
UK Equity	821.00	864.20	+19.80	...
CCM Vangd Mg	990.70	1052.30	+13.60	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Albany Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond				
EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan For East	313.30	329.80	+27.80	...
GT Plan Worldw	603.60	635.40	+ 3.60	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex				
CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	853.30	853.30	+17.90	...
-do- Inv A	853.30	898.30	+18.00	...
UK Equity	563.00	592.70	+11.40	...
Gilt Plus	235.80	248.30	+ 0.90	...
Managed	388.60	409.10	+ 8.60	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 622982				
Managed	279.10	293.70	+ 6.30	...
Unitised Profit	166.20	174.90	+10.20	...
UK Equity	417.30	439.20	+10.20	...
Fixed Int	231.10	243.20	+ 0.50	...
Index-Linked	186.10	195.70	+ 0.10	...
Cash Deposit	193.00	203.00	+ 0.10	...
Property	193.00	203.10	+ 0.50	...
International	222.00	233.60	+ 5.60	...
American	369.70	388.80	+10.10	...
Japan	216.10	227.30	+ 3.70	...
Japan Smllr Cos	231.30	232.30	+ 3.90	...
European	258.60	272.10	+10.50	...
Pacific Fund	275.90	290.30	+ 2.60	...
Conv Life	172.40	182.40	+ 2.40	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Gtd	637.40	670.90	+14.40	...
Managed Initial	393.10	413.80	+ 8.70	...
Equity Gtd	1084.90	1140.40	+25.70	...
Equity Init	650.60	684.80	+15.30	...
I-Linked Gilt Gtd	226.90	238.80	+ 0.20	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	146.10	153.80	...


J ALLAN CASH

Bottom-fishing, Far East style: the only way to make a decent catch in fish and shares

Timing is all when fishing for Asian stocks

Bottom fishing may sound like a nefarious activity for most investors, but in the Far East markets it could soon be the only way of gaining any profit.

The term refers to the practice of investors who like to buy stocks and shares when they are cheap. It is most easily accomplished in markets that have fallen from their peak.

The Far East is showing strong potential for this kind of bargain-hunting. Since July 2, when Thailand devalued the baht, the region has been racked by currency speculation and stock market crashes. In spite of the injection of $17.2 billion (£10.9 billion) by the International Monetary Fund the baht continued to fall, starting a domino effect that has taken in the economies of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

In the past two months these markets have fallen between 20 and 40 per cent, stunning investors after a decade of "miracle" growth by the Asian tigers. The dream also turned sour for Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, whose increasingly extreme threats to foreign investors have fuelled the instability.

Such has been the fallout that even Hong Kong, traditionally the bastion of Far East markets, has dropped 15 per cent since its reintegration with China on June 30. This is because investors, anxious to reduce their weighting in the region, have found it easier to sell shares in Hong Kong than in the middle of the disaster zone. However, the market has begun to recover this week and is expected to reach its pre-handover level in the next few months.

In spite of the recent buffeting Hong Kong's long-term growth prospects, now it is incorporated in the potential world economic powerhouse of China, are good.

Funds investing in the Far East have been badly hit, particularly those focusing on individual countries. Old Mutual's Thailand Fund, for instance, has dropped a fifth in value since July, according to Micropal, the statistics provider. Fidelity's Asean unit trust has fallen more than 16 per cent in the same period. Investment trusts in the Far East, excluding Japan, have seen discounts on their share prices widen by a third, to more than 16 per cent, in the past month alone. Offshore funds have not fared any better.

After such trauma, investors in these funds have little option but to stay where they are in the hope that things will improve. For other investors, the turmoil in Asian stocks raises the tantalising possibility that they can get in at the bottom of a rising market, the classic way of making the most of your money. But should they leap in now or wait?

Ashok Shah, Far East portfolio manager at Old Mutual, says investors should wait three to six months before the market hits rock-bottom. He believes the region's governments have yet to acknowledge that they face at least five years of painful economic restructuring to remedy the mismanagement of the early 1990s when the flood of capital into the countries not only pushed up debt levels but led to the creation of excess industrial capacity, just as they were beginning to face stiff competition. Asian exporters were additionally hampered by high interest rates caused by linking their currencies to the US dollar. It is this currency peg that has come under pressure from speculators such as George Soros.

Mr Shah says: "The market is forcing a solution. It is telling these countries that the only way to use their spare capacity is to be competitive. They have to devalue to make their exports cheaper." Until they face up to this he believes their stock markets face a rocky ride.

Peter Warwick, a fund manager at Flemings, believes the turning point could come sooner but only if the region's governments stop protecting their currencies with artificially high interest rates and if exports begin to rise in value.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

Sara McConnell and **Lizanne Rose** take a look at the poor rates now on offer

Small savers short-changed

Building societies and banks are short-changing smaller savers with derisory interest rates and slamming the door on those with hundreds rather than thousands to invest.

Savers' rates rose again this week to reflect the four base rate increases since May. All the main players report huge increases in savings inflows as people open accounts or build up balances in the hope of a better deal. This week, Barclays reported a 15 per cent year-on-year rise in numbers of savers. Last month, the Halifax said the amount pouring into its coffers had nearly trebled over the past year.

But those wanting to invest a few hundred and withdraw it when they want may as well put it under the mattress for all the interest they will earn in traditional banks and building societies. With the exception of Royal Bank of Scotland and the Midland, all the big high street institutions are paying negative real rates of interest on balances below £500. The main players are now paying respectable rates on bigger balances in "flagship accounts". Abbey National, for example, is paying 7.2 per cent gross on the minimum £2,000 balance in its recently launched Bonus Postal account. But there was no rise for Abbey customers with less than £500 in the branch-based Instant Saver account. They continue to earn 1.8 per cent gross.

Similarly, Halifax, customers with less than £500 in a Liquid Gold instant access account have seen no rise on their 0.5 per cent gross since the start of the year. Woolwich Prime Gold customers are still earning 1.25 per cent gross on balances of less than £500 even after the new bank raised rates yesterday.

Some of the worst rates on offer are from building societies, including the Nationwide, which has spent millions proclaiming its commitment to mutuality by promising to use some of its profits to improve rates for savers and borrowers. Its Cashbuilder account pays just 1.25 per cent gross to savers with less than £500 to invest. The Britannia, which has temporarily staved off calls from members to convert or merge by introducing a system of bonuses, is paying a laughable 0.1 per cent on balances of less than £500 in its Flexible Savings Account. The Bradford & Bingley, also a keen mutual, is paying 1.55 per cent on the same balance.

Societies that have announced decisions to convert to banks are in the strongest position to lock in people to poor rates. Birmingham Midshires, which is being taken over by Royal Bank of Scotland, is advising people to sit tight to make sure they do not jeopardise potential bonus payouts. But members in the Quantum Instant Access account will have to wait out the next year watching balances of up to £5,000 earning just 1.55 per cent. Balances of less than £500 earn 0.1 per cent. Customers in the society's First Class instant access postal account are doing rather better, earning 5 per cent on balances of between £5,000 and £10,000.

Northern Rock members have just been freed from accounts paying as little as 0.75 per cent gross on balances of £500 and can take their money elsewhere without risking forthcoming bonuses. But this raises the question of who wants their cash. Building societies have been so desperate to close their doors to potential carpetbaggers hoping for conversions that they have jacked up balances to levels unattainable for many smaller savers. They will not get much joy from their own society, which admitted: "Lots of our products are aimed at people with £5,000 or more. We do recognise that some of our rates are not that good".

The Nationwide confirmed this week that it had no instant access account for new customers with less than £500 to invest. The Cashbuilder account has a minimum balance of £5,000, as does its InvestDirect postal account. It started taking applications for new accounts again last week after being overwhelmed by investors hoping for conversion bonuses. The society is "reviewing" minimum balances and says "it is one of the biggest disappointments about the recent situation created by carpetbaggers which meant that we didn't have any products for smaller savers".

The best many societies can offer is a savings account that ensures them a regular income without too many withdrawals. The Bradford & Bingley pays 7.15 per cent to those saving a minimum of £10 a month for a year. The price for new customers opening an instant access account at the society, or postal account, is now £1,000. Nationwide offers 7.5 per cent to those putting in £20 a month for 11 months of the year.

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS

BANK/SOCIETY	ACCOUNT NAME	GROSS INTEREST £100	£1,000	£5,000	£10,000	PAID
Alliance & Leicester 0116 201 1000	Instant Access	0.55	2.80	2.90	2.95	Yly
Unlimited withdrawals but if balance falls under £1,000 two free withdrawals can be made per month with subsequent withdrawals charged at 60p each.						
Barclays Bank 0800 400100	Instant Savings	0.75	3.55	3.75	4.15	Qly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	Quantum Inst Acc	-	0.75	1.55	2.30	Yly
Minimum £500 to open account.						
Bradford & Bingley 01274 555332	First Choice	-	3.10	3.60	3.90	Yly
Account can be opened with £500 if you are an existing member - rate 3.10 per cent. 0.75% bonus added if fewer than 3 withdrawals made per annum.						
Bristol & West 0117 979 2222	Instant Access	-	2.70	3.40	3.80	Yly
Minimum investment £500 - 2.50%						
Britannia 01538 399399	Instant Access	0.10	2.50	3.00	3.25	Yly
50p charged for withdrawals if account falls below £100						
Halifax 01422 333333	Liquid Gold	0.50	3.75	4.15	4.30	Yly
£50 minimum deposit; 60p charged for cashcard withdrawals if not at Halifax ATM.						
Midland Bank 0800 180180	Saver Plus	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	½Yly
Nationwide	Cashbuilder	-	-	4.20	4.50	Yly
Can only be opened £5,000. Existing customers may open account with £500 (rate is 3.80 per cent). Card cash withdrawals 60p if not at Nationwide ATM.						
Northern Rock 0500 505000	Instant Access	0.50	1.05	1.05	1.50	Yly
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 121121	Instant Access	3.25	4.00	4.75	5.00	Qly
Minimum deposit £50; ten free withdrawals per quarter then 50p each						
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Acc Savings	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	Yly

No bonus for big Abbey investors



Savings institutions may seem to care little for small savers. But they do not always extend first-class service to the larger investors in the current target market. Hugh Heffer, pictured right, a *Times* reader, tried to open an Abbey National Bonus Postal account in late July. He did not receive a formal receipt for his deposit of £11,219.04 until this week.

When Mr Heffer contacted the bank, he was told that they were "overwhelmed by the response" to the offer. He was tempted to close the account and withdraw his cash, but since the account had not been officially opened, he had no withdrawal forms. The Abbey said that the Bonus account had been more successful than expected. A spokesman said: "We have an emergency team working on the backlog. Investors will suffer no loss of interest."

THE WEEK IN MONEY

THE Personal Investment Authority has imposed a fine of £425,000 on DBS Financial Management, the financial advisers' network, over the slow progress of its pensions mis-selling review. One of the PIA's directors, Ken Davy, resigned from the City regulator's board, feeling his continuation to be inappropriate in view of his position as chairman of DBS.

☐ Ofgas, the regulator, is working on plans to stem aggressive sales tactics of gas supply companies. Responsible marketing will be part of licence requirements rather than doorstep ethics being left to the conscience of companies.

☐ The 885,000 beneficiaries of the Northern Rock conversion could be in line for a windfall of £1,950, double what was previously expected, when the society floats on October 1.

☐ Abbey National is to charge its 400,000 Instant Plus account holders £1 for over-the-counter transactions to encourage them to use cash machines, or the telephone banking service. The Abbey's move has been seen as the first step towards charges on current accounts.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01293 559 231

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
General Acc.	616.00	668.10	+20.90	2.22
General Inc	676.00	719.20	+19.80	2.22
UK Growth Acc	564.00	600.10	+16.80	2.15
Un. Growth Inc	390.60	383.70	+10.80	2.15
American Growth	536.70	572.90	+26.60	0.29
Asian Pacific	315.50	337.40	+1.70	0.41
Assets. & Earnings	336.40	359.60	+8.70	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	240.40	257.10	+12.20	0.78
Extra Inc	43.75	46.54#	+0.22	6.44
General	308.10	327.80#	+7.40	3.60
Global Opps	83.10	88.40#	+1.96	0.45
Japan	99.15	105.00	+2.40	
Managed Inc	51.78	55.08#	+0.73	4.08
(Distributions)	191.40	204.70	+4.20	1.08
US Emerging Cos	222.70	236.20	+7.90	
Ethical	88.31	93.96	+1.16	1.96
International	154.90	164.50	+3.50	0.53
Portfolio & Growth	78.83	83.86	+1.83	4.01
Global Gwth & Sec	*77.57*	*82.84*	*+0.16*	*2.44*
Latin America	96.04	104.30#	+1.40	0.37
Capital Reserve	150.60	160.60	+0.50	4.64

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 6500

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
N&P UK Growth	108.90	115.80#	+3.20	2.07
Equity Income #	158.00	168.50#	+3.20	3.15
Extra Income #	295.60	303.80#	+4.70	6.00
Smaller Cos	106.00	112.70	-0.10	1.76
International	133.10	141.50	+5.00	1.30

ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American	80.35	83.53	+4.83	
Emerging Mkts	76.58	79.76	-1.64	0.05
European	173.13	180.08	+4.53	
Extra Income #	54.95	57.83#	+0.09	5.16
Far East Emg Exn	110.41	115.81	-1.29	0.68
Fixed Interest	26.86	27.99#	+0.25	6.39
Fixed Inv Tst #	166.95	175.27	+1.71	9.76
Japan	178.82	183.78#	+2.70	
Latin American	80.61	84.42#	+0.71	
Pacific	74.56	78.30	-0.85	0.35
Property	84.02	88.21	-1.42	1.50
Uk Emerging Cos	68.18	73.67	-0.73	0.78
UK Growth	86.64	90.41	-0.96	1.24
Aber World Pser #	91.66	96.46	+1.15	2.51
Ethical	80.84	87.19	+1.02	1.11
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.18	50.18#	-0.57	7.05

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2434.00	2541.00	+10.00	

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5866

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Ressell Property #	108.50	115.40	+2.50	4.92

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amity Income	105.31	111.63†	+1.70	1.87
Income Builder Inc	92.98	98.91	+1.65	3.55

For ABI Dunbar see Theadneedle

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 536 911

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cntrld Opt Pens	134.20	139.40	-1.10	
Founatin Pens# Pens	79.73	82.63		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
America	460.60	490.00	+16.90	
Bond	134.20	130.50#	+0.10	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	114.00	121.30	+0.20	1.69
Cons & Gen #	67.20	71.49#	-1.37	5.46
Europe	363.00	385.70	+16.70	
Euro Smlr Cos	132.10	141.40	+3.50	0.31
Income Gwth	431.80	436.60	+8.60	3.99
Japan	325.00	344.50	+14.50	
Latin American	119.90	127.50	+0.80	
Pacific	114.10	122.00	+1.80	0.54
UK Smlr Cos	61.78	65.72	-0.37	1.28
Japan Fd	581.20	999.90	+18.40	
Mngd Fd	242.30	257.30	+8.10	2.44

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bd & Ossc	444.20	469.90#	+10.80	0.78
Capital Gwth	161.10	170.40	+5.20	2.45
Wrlds Opps	249.40	263.80	+4.90	0.63

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 502 4000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inv	509.70	542.20	+13.30	1.54
European Bd Inc	98.02	101.50†	+0.40	6.01
Exempt	101.40	107.80	+2.80	2.13
500	502.80	540.40#	+2.20	2.02
General	390.90	415.80	+10.80	1.65
Property	362.80	382.80	+0.20	5.61
Trustee	274.40	291.90	+7.60	1.62
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.80	101.80	+0.10	6.34
Distribution #	124.20	124.90#	+2.20	5.20
Extra Income #	165.90	177.00	+3.90	4.24
Gilt & Fxd Int	60.84	62.72‡	+0.29	7.42
Income #	664.40	730.00‡	+15.90	4.17
Income Builder #	70.15	80.23‡	+1.74	4.80
Intl Income	84.77	90.18	+3.40	1.06
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	172.70	183.70‡	+4.90	1.46
FTSE 100	127.10	134.90#	+4.30	1.82
Smlr Cos Inc	58.78	62.70‡	+0.30	2.24
UK Growth	499.30	531.10	+12.70	1.65
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	233.30	247.20	+12.30	0.11
F East Gwth Acc	375.30	392.80	+2.70	0.34
Far East Gwth	163.10	173.50	+1.60	0.34
Euro Gwth Inc	233.30	246.80‡	+12.00	0.97
-do- Accum	255.90	270.40	+14.50	0.37
Japan	134.20	132.00	+3.90	
-do- Accum	135.70	133.50	+3.90	
Japan Spec Sits	58.52	62.35	+1.74	
Worldwide	225.30	239.10	+8.60	0.56

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Growth	179.70	189.50	+9.70	-
Amer Smlr Cos	162.60	153.70	+10.00	-
Eastern	35.40	38.00	-0.20	0.30
Equity Income #	117.70	125.70#	+3.10	4.00
European Growth	465.30	495.70	+21.70	0.80
Europe	443.00	473.20	+11.80	0.80
German Growth	110.10	116.80	+4.40	0.59
Global Bond	72.80	76.11#	+1.19	4.60
Global Growth	173.50	184.10	+7.70	0.40
Japan Growth	163.40	173.20	+2.50	
Japan Smaller	110.30	116.80	+2.30	
Korea Trust	49.33	53.68	-1.01	
Portfolio	170.10	181.70#	+4.00	2.00
-do- Accum	328.30	349.70	+9.60	3.00
UK Growth	125.80	134.60	+3.30	3.00
UK Smaller Cos.	109.60	119.20	+1.40	1.90
Select Managers	97.35	104.20#	+1.90	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRAINS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3300

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Gwth Port Inc	104.90	111.60†	+1.70	
Special Oppor Inc	73.28	77.96†	+0.50	

BRITANNIA FUND MNGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	176.91	184.78	+1.66	1.10
-do- Accum	207.10	215.98	+1.94	1.10
Smaller Cos	176.04	183.37	+1.48	0.39
Higher Yield #	66.58	69.36	-0.70	3.74
American Gth Inc	136.61	142.30#	+6.08	
European Growth	383.30	211.66‡	+11.06	
-do- Accum	207.74	216.40	+11.31	
Mngd Profile Inc	63.30	65.84	-1.16	1.27
-do- Accum	65.92	68.67	+1.21	1.27
Int Spec Opps	267.28	215.92	+2.49	
Pacific Gth	180.67	187.38	+9.63	
Uk General #	170.52	125.50	+3.09	2.83
-do- Accum #	132.73	138.26	+3.39	2.83
Japan	51.32	53.46‡	+1.56	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	104.06	107.63†	+0.51	7.61

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Short Dated Gilt	85.41	86.24	+0.17	6.31

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Envirion	306.00	316.90	+5.30	1.57
UK Growth	256.60	270.10†	+7.80	1.67
Uk Income	175.90	185.10	+4.00	3.61

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Can Gen Dist	373.10	389.50†	+6.60	1.37
-do- Income Dist	150.10	158.10	+3.80	5.14
-do- Accum	499.40	529.30	+12.60	3.14
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.78	43.90†	+0.16	6.20
Growth Units	312.30	333.90†	+9.00	1.75
Bond	180.90	189.80†	+0.80	6.30
Intl Growth	254.50	270.40	+9.40	0.17
North American	324.40	344.20†	+16.30	0.07
Far East	365.00	383.40	+4.10	0.68
UK Smaller Cos	243.90	260.90#	+2.80	1.10
European	114.00	121.30	+0.90	0.42
Japanese Growth	39.31	41.66	+1.03	
High Income	356.00	384.10	+7.00	3.58

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7473 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American & Gen	283.80	300.20	+15.10	
European Inc	118.30	125.40#	+5.40	0.10
Smaller Cos (4-1)	105.20	112.00#	+1.50	1.84
Growth	649.40	687.70†	+11.30	1.86
Income & Growth #	547.30	582.30†	+16.50	4.40
-do- Accum #	855.10	909.70	+25.90	4.40
Japan & Gen	61.76	65.36	+1.40	2.60
Hallmark Gwth	1453.00	1513.00	+45.00	1.53
-do- Accum	1815.00	1891.00	+55.00	1.53
Special Sits	150.80	160.50	+4.30	1.83
High Yield	1775.00	1830.00	+43.00	3.92

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0706

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	113.33	120.89	+2.15	2.32
American Portfolio	160.67	170.67	+6.39	0.72
European Portfolio	161.03	171.32	+5.83	0.42
High Income	53.80	56.63‡	+0.17	6.70
Japanese Portfolio	59.98	63.69‡	+1.49	
Pacific Portfolio	150.79	162.19	+2.04	0.77
Uk Equity	112.32	119.95	+2.66	2.84
Uk Equity & Bd	84.94	68.86	+0.99	5.22
Uk Smlr Cos	52.52	56.18‡	+0.44	1.09

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inc Fd Inc	883.71	897.07	-24.32	3.67
Inc Fd Acc	903.89	917.55	-25.67	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	158.23	158.97	-2.97	9.00
Fxd Int Sec Acc	165.51	166.17	+0.54	

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	879.63	892.93	-14.51	3.99
Investment Acc	4189.30	4252.68	-69.10	
Fixed Int Inc	130.76	131.26	+0.19	8.84
Fixed Int Acc	254.22	255.24	+0.37	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5988

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Blackwall Inc	92.29	97.26	+1.27	5.15
Black Bio-Tech	42.36	44.61#	+1.55	
Acorn Dlsmd Tst	208.69	218.51		0.42
City Fin Assets	85.63	89.62	-0.60	1.84
City Fin Intl	96.32	101.14	-1.42	0.66
Friars Hse Cap	340.96	362.72‡	-1.41	1.72
Buckley Wrld Gdth	149.14	158.09‡	-4.98	
Share Utilities	76.57	78.26	+0.97	4.45

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 3000
Emerging Markets 64.83 68.78 +0.55

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Gwth	100.14	106.53	+5.17	
Dragon Growth	65.09	69.61	+0.55	0.69
Equity High Inc	108.84	115.17†	+1.42	3.30
-do- Accum	163.78	173.19	+4.38	3.30
Extra Income Inc	27.90	29.36	+0.11	6.64
Extra Income Acc	32.01	33.69	+0.13	5.84
European Gwth	81.10	85.62	+3.95	0.14
Evergrowth	35.29	37.71	+1.21	
General Equity	127.44	134.50	+3.72	2.37
Japan Growth	41.95	44.63	+1.33	
Pacific Growth	73.79	80.29	+2.18	0.79
Pref Sec Cons Inc	110.80	115.81	-1.29	0.68
Far East Emg Exn	110.41	115.81	-1.29	0.68
Fixed Interest #	26.86	27.99‡	+0.25	8.39
Fixed Inv Tst #	166.95	175.27	+1.71	9.76
Japan	178.82	183.78‡	+2.70	
Latin American	80.61	84.42‡	+0.71	
Pacific	74.56	78.30	-0.85	0.35
Property	84.02	88.21	-1.42	1.50
Uk Emerging Cos	68.18	73.67	-0.73	0.78
UK Growth	86.64	90.41	-0.96	1.24
Aber World Pser #	91.66	96.46	+1.15	2.51
Ethical	80.84	87.19	+1.02	1.11
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.18	50.18‡	-0.57	7.05

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2434.00	2541.00	+10.00	

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5866

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Ressell Property #	108.50	115.40	+2.50	4.92

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amity Income	105.31	111.63†	+1.70	1.87
Income Builder Inc	92.98	98.91	+1.65	3.55

For ABI Dunbar see Theadneedle

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 536 911

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cntrld Opt Pens	134.20	139.40	-1.10	
Founatin Pens# Pens	79.73	82.63		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
America	460.60	490.00	+16.90	
Bond	134.20	130.50#	+0.10	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	114.00	121.30	+0.20	1.69
Cons & Gen #	67.20	71.49#	-1.37	5.46
Europe	363.00	385.70	+16.70	
Euro Smlr Cos	132.10	141.40	+3.50	0.31
Income Gwth	431.80	436.60	+8.60	3.99
Japan	325.00	344.50	+14.50	
Latin American	119.90	127.50	+0.80	
Pacific	114.10	122.00	+1.80	0.54
UK Smlr Cos	61.78	65.72	-0.37	1.28
Japan Fd	581.20	999.90	+18.40	
Mngd Fd	242.30	257.30	+8.10	2.44

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bd & Ossc	444.20	469.90#	+10.80	0.78
Capital Gwth	161.10	170.40	+5.20	2.45
Wrlds Opps	249.40	263.80	+4.90	0.63

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 502 4000

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inv	509.70	542.20	+13.30	1.54
European Bd Inc	98.02	101.50†	+0.40	6.01
Exempt	101.40	107.80	+2.80	2.13
500	502.80	540.40#	+2.20	2.02
General	390.90	415.80	+10.80	1.65
Property	362.80	382.80	+0.20	5.61
Trustee	274.40	291.90	+7.60	1.62
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.80	101.80	+0.10	6.34
Distribution #	124.20	124.90#	+2.20	5.20
Extra Income #	165.90	177.00	+3.90	4.24
Gilt & Fxd Int	60.84	62.72‡	+0.29	7.42
Income #	664.40	730.00‡	+15.90	4.17
Income Builder #	70.15	80.23‡	+1.74	4.80
Intl Income	84.77	90.18	+3.40	1.06
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	172.70	183.70‡	+4.90	1.46
FTSE 100	127.10	134.90#	+4.30	1.82
Smlr Cos Inc	58.78	62.70‡	+0.30	2.24
UK Growth	499.30	531.10	+12.70	1.65
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	233.30	247.20	+12.30	0.11
F East Gwth Acc	375.30	392.80	+2.70	0.34
Far East Gwth	163.10	173.50	+1.60	0.34
Euro Gwth Inc	233.30	246.80‡	+12.00	0.97
-do- Accum	255.90	270.40	+14.50	0.37
Japan	134.20	132.00	+3.90	
-do- Accum	135.70	133.50	+3.90	
Japan Spec Sits	58.52	62.35	+1.74	
Worldwide	225.30	239.10	+8.60	0.56

BARING FUND MANGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Growth	179.70	189.50	+9.70	-
Amer Smlr Cos	162.60	153.70	+10.00	-
Eastern	35.40	38.00	-0.20	0.30
Equity Income #	117.70	125.70#	+3.10	4.00
European Growth	465.30	495.70	+21.70	0.80
Europe	443.00	473.20	+11.80	0.80
German Growth	110.10	116.80	+4.40	0.59
Global Bond	72.80	76.11#	+1.19	4.60
Global Growth	173.50	184.10	+7.70	0.40
Japan Growth	163.40	173.20	+2.50	
Japan Smaller	110.30	116.80	+2.30	
Korea Trust	49.33	53.68	-1.01	
Portfolio	170.10	181.70#	+4.00	2.00
-do- Accum	328.30	349.70	+9.60	3.00
UK Growth	125.80	134.60	+3.30	3.00
UK Smaller Cos.	109.60	119.20	+1.40	1.90
Select Managers	97.35	104.20#	+1.90	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRAINS UT MGRS LTD
0171 256 3300

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Gwth Port Inc	104.90	111.60†	+1.70	
Special Oppor Inc	73.28	77.96†	+0.50	

BRITANNIA FUND MNGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	176.91	184.78	+1.66	1.10
-do- Accum	207.10	215.98	+1.94	1.10
Smaller Cos	176.04	183.37	+1.48	0.39
Higher Yield #	66.58	69.36	-0.70	3.74
American Gth Inc	136.61	142.30#	+6.08	
European Growth	383.30	211.66‡	+11.06	
-do- Accum	207.74	216.40	+11.31	
Mngd Profile Inc	63.30	65.84	-1.16	1.27
-do- Accum	65.92	68.67	+1.21	1.27
Int Spec Opps	267.28	215.92	+2.49	
Pacific Gth	180.67	187.38	+9.63	
Uk General #	170.52	125.50	+3.09	2.83
-do- Accum #	132.73	138.26	+3.39	2.83
Japan	51.32	53.46‡	+1.56	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	104.06	107.63†	+0.51	7.61

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Short Dated Gilt	85.41	86.24	+0.17	6.31

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Envirion	306.00	316.90	+5.30	1.57
UK Growth	256.60	270.10†	+7.80	1.67
Uk Income	175.90	185.10	+4.00	3.61

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Can Gen Dist	373.10	389.50†	+6.60	1.37
-do- Income Dist	150.10	158.10	+3.80	5.14
-do- Accum	499.40	529.30	+12.60	3.14
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.78	43.90†	+0.16	6.20
Growth Units	312.30	333.90†	+9.00	1.75
Bond	180.90	189.80†	+0.80	6.30
Intl Growth	254.50	270.40	+9.40	0.17
North American	324.40	344.20†	+16.30	0.07
Far East	365.00	383.40	+4.10	0.68
UK Smaller Cos	243.90	260.90#	+2.80	1.10
European	114.00	121.30	+0.90	0.42
Japanese Growth	39.31	41.66	+1.03	
High Income	356.00	384.10	+7.00	3.58

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7473 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American & Gen	283.80	300.20	+15.10	
European Inc	118.30	125.40#	+5.40	0.10
Smaller Cos (4-1)	105.20	112.00#	+1.50	1.84
Growth	649.40	687.70†	+11.30	1.86
Income & Growth #	547.30	582.30†	+16.50	4.40
-do- Accum #	855.10	909.70	+25.90	4.40
Japan & Gen	61.76	65.36	+1.40	2.60
Hallmark Gwth	1453.00	1513.00	+45.00	1.53
-do- Accum	1815.00	1891.00	+55.00	1.53
Special Sits	150.80	160.50	+4.30	1.83
High Yield	1775.00	1830.00	+43.00	3.92

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0706

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	113.33	120.89	+2.15	2.32
American Portfolio	160.67	170.67	+6.39	0.72
European Portfolio	161.03	171.32	+5.83	0.42
High Income	53.80	56.63‡	+0.17	6.70
Japanese Portfolio	59.98	63.69‡	+1.49	
Pacific Portfolio	150.79	162.19	+2.04	0.77
Uk Equity	112.32	119.95	+2.66	2.84
Uk Equity & Bd	84.94	68.86	+0.99	5.22
Uk Smlr Cos	52.52	56.18‡	+0.44	1.09

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inc Fd Inc	883.71	897.07	-24.32	3.67
Inc Fd Acc	903.89	917.55	-25.67	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	158.23	158.97	-2.97	9.00
Fxd Int Sec Acc	165.51	166.17	+0.54	

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	879.63	892.93	-14.51	3.99
Investment Acc	4189.30	4252.68	-69.10	
Fixed Int Inc	130.76	131.26	+0.19	8.84
Fixed Int Acc	254.22	255.24	+0.37	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5988

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Blackwall Inc	92.29	97.26	+1.27	5.15
Black Bio-Tech	42.36	44.61#	+1.55	
Acorn Dlsmd Tst	208.69	218.51		0.42
City Fin Assets	85.63	89.62	-0.60	1.84
City Fin Intl	96.32	101.14	-1.42	0.66
Friars Hse Cap	340.96	362.72‡	-1.41	1.72
Buckley Wrld Gdth	149.14	158.09‡	-4.98	
Share Utilities	76.57	78.26	+0.97	4.45

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 3000
Emerging Markets 64.83 68.78 +0.55

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Gwth	100.14	106.53	+5.17	
Dragon Growth	65.09	69.61	+0.55	0.69
Equity High Inc	108.84	115.17†	+1.42	3.30
-do- Accum	163.78	173.19	+4.38	3.30
Extra Income Inc	27.90	29.36	+0.11	6.64
Extra Income Acc	32.01	33.69	+0.13	5.84
European Gwth	81.10	85.62	+3.95	0.14
Evergrowth	35.29	37.71	+1.21	
General Equity	127.44	134.50	+3.72	2.37
Japan Growth	41.95	44.63	+1.33	
Pacific Growth	73.79	80.29	+2.18	0.79
Pref Sec Cons Inc	110.80	115.81	-1.29	0.68
Far East Emg Exn	110.41	115.81	-1.29	0.68
Fixed Interest #	26.86	27.99‡	+0.25	8.39
Fixed Inv Tst #	166.95	175.27	+1.71	9.76
Japan	178.82	183.78‡	+2.70	
Latin American	80.61	84.42‡	+0.71	
Pacific	74.56	78.30	-0.85	0.35
Property	84.02	88.21	-1.42	1.50
Uk Emerging Cos	68.18	73.67	-0.73	0.78
UK Growth	86.64	90.41	-0.96	1.24
Aber World Pser #	91.66	96.46	+1.15	2.51
Ethical	80.84	87.19	+1.02	1.11
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.18	50.18‡	-0.57	7.05

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Small Cos	2434.00	2541.00	+10.00	

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5866

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Ressell Property #	108.50	115.40	+2.50	4.92

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Amity Income	105.31	111.63†	+1.70	1.87
Income Builder Inc	92.98	98.91	+1.65	3.55

For ABI Dunbar see Theadneedle

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 536 911

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cntrld Opt Pens	134.20	139.40	-1.10	
Founatin Pens# Pens	79.73	82.63		

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
America	460.60	490.00	+16.90	
Bond	134.20	130.50#	+0.10	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	114.00	121.30	+0.20	1.69
Cons & Gen #	67.20	71.49#	-1.37	5.46
Europe	363.00	385.70	+16.70	
Euro Smlr Cos	132.10	141.40	+3.50	0.31
Income Gwth	431.80	436.60	+8.60	3.99
Japan	325.00	344.50	+14.50	
Latin American	119.90	127.50	+0.80	
Pacific	114.10	122.00	+1.80	0.54
UK Smlr Cos	61.78	65.72	-0.37	1.28
Japan Fd	581.20	999.90	+18.40	
Mngd Fd	242.30	257.30	+8.10	2.44

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8673

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bd & Ossc	444.20	469.90#	+10.80	0.78
Capital Gwth	161.10	170.40	+5.20	2.45
Wrlds Opps	249.

RUGBY UNION

Cup demands likely to take their toll

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IMPERFECT its structure may be, unequal the distribution of money, but the great adventure that the Heineken Cup — in only two years — has become immerses the best teams of six countries this weekend. This season, moreover, its home-and-away formula will leave no room for error. Weaknesses will be ruthlessly exploited by sides seeking home advantage in the knockout stages and knowing that a good points difference could achieve that.

The feast that begins in Dublin this afternoon, when Leinster lay out their newly-acquired provincial champions title before Toulouse, will not conclude until January 31, when the final is contested at either a French venue or Twickenham. It will not have escaped British eyes that the cup has yet to leave France — Toulouse won the inaugural competition and, last season, Brive captured the hearts of the 44,000 who saw them beat Leicester in Cardiff.

A television audience of 35 million throughout the world also appreciated that final. "Sometimes, for no obvious reason, a competition catches the public imagination," Roger Pickering, the chief executive of European Rugby Cup Ltd, the tournament organisers, said as he extolled its virtues, but the reasons, in this case, are clear: this is a competition that is breaking parochial boundaries, that is a money-spinner and that has forced clubs to adopt a far more visionary approach.

It has also imposed great demands upon professional clubs still coming to terms with the new age. Leicester found that they could not keep the three balls — Europe, domestic league and cup — in the air a year ago and nearly dropped them all. Their rivals will have learnt from that not to set impossible targets. It will be no surprise to see the teams who contest the final in January faltering in domestic competitions, partly from anti-climax and partly because their best players will be taken for international rugby. "We know that if we play anywhere near our potential for a sustained period of time, we are going to win something," Martin Johnson, the British Isles captain, who leads Leicester against Milan tomorrow, said.

Johnson is right to be cautious and to echo the approach taken by the Lions, who looked no further than one game ahead: at least the next six weeks allows the Heineken Cup sides to concentrate wholeheartedly on their European ambitions.

Qualification for the knockout phase alone will be tough, though the composite teams — Scotland's districts, Ireland's provinces, Italy's two reinforced clubs — may not suffer in comparison with clubs who have had little time in which to play competitive matches. Wasps, for example, go to Swansea tomorrow with only one Premiership outing behind them.

How many English players have the experience of playing against Welsh opponents? Internationals perhaps, but there are so few Anglo-Welsh fixtures that St Helen's tomorrow will be a new experience for many young Wasps. The game within the game will be the confrontation at centre between the shuddering strength of Scott Gibbs and the Anglo-Irish combination of Rob Henderson and Nick Greenstock.

Bath go to Pontypridd tomorrow led by Jonathan Callard in the absence of Andy Nicol, their captain. Phil de Glanville, caretaker-captain for the last fortnight, seeks to concentrate on his own game.

Leicester are unchanged against Milan, but Will Carling returns to Harlequins in time for the meeting with Munster at the Stoop.

Brian Ashton, the Ireland coach, has expressed interest in Kevin Nowlan, the Leinster full back from St Mary's College who faces the examination of his young life by the wily Christian Deylaud and his Toulouse pack.

Cup details, page 47

More to Wood than beef and bustle

DAVID HANDS



DES JENSON



Wood, the Ireland hooker, a country boy at heart, has adjusted well to Harlequins and city life

It is a catholic bookshelf which contains de Bono's *Lateral Thinking* cheek by jowl with *The Irish Phrase Book*, with *Stephen Hawking for Beginners* just down the way. Books that adequately reflect the lively, enquiring, humorous mind of Keith Wood, who is yet another reminder that the greatest characters in rugby union tend to come from the front row.

It has not been a good week for Wood. Harlequins, under his leadership, lost in controversial circumstances to Bath at the weekend and he has been snuffling around the house trying to shake off influenza.

The hooker, as sociable a man as you could wish, went back to his native Clare after the British Isles tour of South Africa and struggled to come to terms with the impact the Lions' success had upon domestic rugby followers. "I hadn't played during the last week of the tour because of injury, it wasn't physical exhaustion but total mental melt-down," Wood said.

"I was destroyed. People in my home town [Killaloe, about 15 miles from Limerick] who knew me respected that, but in Limerick, which is a place I love, I only went out the once and that was to a dinner that Garryowen laid on for me, which was brilliant. I just wasn't able to face people and talk about the rugby.

"It was bizarre ... apart from physiotherapy on my injury I virtually did nothing for three weeks except sleep. I was flattened by the whole experience and I still feel the residual effects now."

Now, of course, is yet another overcrowded season which gives little enough opportunity for the high-profile players to rest body and mind. So what do professional rugby players do, Wood is asked, to which the answer is that most of them are still learning how to manage the time they have available when they are not training or playing.

When Wood, 25 and the holder of nine Ireland caps, accepted a contract with Harlequins last year, he made himself a promise to stick it out, even if he hated the lifestyle. That was part of the challenge, not only to move from life in Limerick in a house shared with three or four other rugby players but to the quintessential Englishness of Harlequins and the big city.

"I thought I would hate it," Wood said. "I'm a country boy from Clare, but I'd been injured, I wanted the challenge, I was irritated with people dragging their heels in Ireland over professionalism; the die-hard amateur stance. I had a good job but I wanted something fresh. I was ready for change. And now I find I enjoy London. Richmond and Twickenham are like little towns, you make life what you want it to be."

Wood, the youngest of three brothers, never saw his father play. Gordon Wood propped Ireland and the Lions during the 1950s but died when Keith was only ten. His ambitions are his own and thrust him to the front of Irish rugby at an early age, although there was a time when hurling was his first love and his bustling, ball-handling approach derives from his time as a centre forward in that other sport.

In 1994, when he won the first of his caps, he returned from Ireland's tour to Australia with a hugely-enhanced reputation and the nickname of Fester from the character in *The Addams Family* — the consequence of a shaven head and black eyes acquired in the hurly-burly of battle. That his total of caps has yet to reach double figures is the consequence of a series of (mostly) shoulder injuries.

Yet he survived the gruelling South African experience, until the groin injury which terminated his tour after the series was won. Now he can concentrate on the captaincy of his club — they play Munster tomorrow — and upon Ireland.

"The biggest honour I have had in rugby is to captain my country. The biggest achievement, which is slightly different, was to play in the winning Tests for the Lions," Wood said. "But my goal hasn't changed. It is to be as good as I possibly can be. That's not the cop-out some people say it is. If you are ambitious, and I am, it's the carrot I always have dangling ahead of me."

Ban threat to players who put club first

BY DAVID HANDS

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has brought the club versus country dispute to its conclusion by threatening a life ban on any player who will not conform to guidelines on availability laid down by the union. The decision, announced yesterday, is sure to bring protests from players contracted to English clubs whose fixtures may clash with Wales's national preparations.

"From this moment on, any player making himself unavailable for any senior Welsh team other than for reasons acceptable to the WRU [for example, illness, births, deaths or marriage] should forfeit his right to be selected for any future Welsh team," Terry Cobner, the union's technical director, said.

Wales's efforts to enforce the requirements of the International Rugby Football Board, which dictate that national commitments must come first, were condemned as "draconian" by Mike Burton, the former England prop who now represents the interests of two dozen Welsh players, not all of them internationals and some of whom still live and play in Wales.

"It shows the paranoia swamping rugby unions worldwide," Burton said. "The game's expanding too quickly for them and it's not correct to restrict players in this way."

One of Burton's clients, Scott Quinnell, spent part of last season in dispute with the WRU and Quinnell's club, Richmond, will be furious at the edict. But players will now be forced to consider whether their contractual agreements at club level are worth more than the loss of international status, which carries with it immediate financial reward and potential commercial advantages.

Richmond have seven Wales internationals in their squad while Ieuan Evans, Wales's leading try-scorer, recently moved to Bath, where Nathan Thomas and Richard Webster play. Harlequins and Moseley both have present or potential Wales internationals. There is no immediate clash with the English programme, but on March 7, when Wales play Scotland, there is a round of the Allied Dunbar Premiership scheduled.

REVISED TELEVISION SCHEDULES FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

BBC1

6.00 am The People Gather Coverage from Central London as the crowds begin to arrive arrive (212235)
8.30 Diana: A Newsround Special (20709)
9.00 Diana: The Nation's Farewell with David Dimbleby. Live coverage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. The day's programming will include the procession and the service from Westminster Abbey (9656506)
6.00 pm News, Regional News; Weather (235)
6.30 Wallace & Gromit in the Wrong Trousers Another adventure from the award-winning Nick Park (815)
7.00 FILM: Free Willy (1993) Heartwarming tale about a troubled young boy and his friendship with a captive whale (34756546)
8.45 Only Fools and Horses Classic comedy with Del Boy and Rodney (649308)
9.35 News, Regional News; Weather (485709)
10.00 Farewell to the People's Princess A special tribute programme (5186)
11.00 Pat and Margaret Comedy drama (346167)
12.25 am News (3223991)
12.30 FILM: The Getting of Wisdom (1977) Period drama set in an Australian girls' school (859842)
2.05 Weather (1124587) **2.20** Close

SUNDAY

7.20 am Dilly the Dinosaur (2375945)
7.25 Teletubbies (2121552)
8.10 The Pink Panther (1572133)
8.30 Breakfast with Frost (34674)
9.30 Cathedral Behind the scenes of Norwich Cathedral (9089668)
9.45 First Light (640129)
10.15 Cricket Live coverage of the NatWest Trophy Final between Essex and Warwickshire (1510991)
11.30 CountryFile John Craven presents the rural and environmental magazine (2397)
12.00 News (6860113)
12.05pm Think Tank David Aaronovitch and a panel of experts debate a topical social issue (4455216)
1.00 EastEnders Postponed omnibus edition (6784823)
2.25 Cartoon (32351755)
2.35 Eastenders Postponed omnibus edition (8472397)
3.35 Bookworm (6487755)
4.05 Eastenders This week's omnibus edition (1862674)
5.25 The Clothes Show New series of the fashion magazine (5411755)
5.50 News and Weather Followed by Regional News and Weather (686007)
6.15 Songs of Praise Johnny Logan travels down the west coast of Ireland to the island of St Patrick's Purgatory (701378)
6.55 Oh Doctor Beeching! Comedy starring Su Pollard and Paul Shane (586194)
7.25 The Antiques Inspectors The team of experts visit Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk (841755)
8.10 Full Circle with Michael Palin (521484)
9.00 Casualty (1397115)
10.15 News and Weather (216484)
10.30 Everyman Nigel Hawthorne investigates the clash between commerce and Christianity as Canterbury Cathedral nears its 1,400th (867945)
11.20 FILM: The 39 Steps (1935) (863945)
1.00 am Weather (4497243) **1.05** Close

BBC2

6.20 am Open University: Richard II: Politics, Patriotism and Authority Shakespeare's Richard II (4044631)
6.45 Science and Nuclear Waste (5811761)
7.10 Mozambique Under Attack (6888083)
7.35 Data About Data (6071070)
8.00 Okie Dokie (Children's BBC) (7722896)
8.10 Peter Pan and the Pirates (4023803)
8.30 Beatrix Potter (11051)
9.00 Diana: A Newsround Special (35631)
9.30 Diana: The Nation's Farewell (9944490)
9.50 The Procession to Westminster Abbey (2666525)
11.00 The Funeral Service Followed by one minute silence (61273)
12.30 pm FILM: Lassie Come Home (1943) Classic family adventure drama featuring the beloved collie (7554593)
1.55 Okie Doke (87926709)
2.05 Beatrix Potter (31005693)
2.35 Blue Peter (5340525)
3.00 Fergufly: The Last Rainforest (2148709)
4.10 Les Miserables in Conert The long-running musical celebrates its tenth anniversary with a concert at the Albert Hall (49800235)
6.40 Stephen Hawking's Universe (571308)
7.30 Fauré's Requiem: BBC Proms 97 (141419)
8.15 Restless Nation (108964)
9.05 Bookmark Not Waving but Drowning by Stevie Smith (151902)
9.55 FILM: Out of Africa (1985) The story of Karen Dinesen, who left Denmark in 1913 to marry a Swedish baron and run a coffee farm in Kenya (12295544)
12.30 am FILM: The Lilies of the Field (1963) Drama about the relationship between a former American soldier and a group of refugee German nuns (61303)
2.00 Weather (1123858) **2.05** Close

SUNDAY

6.05 am Open University: Difference on Screen (7967262)
6.35 Outsiders In: Muslims in Europe (5540303)
7.25 Open Sunday (8168216)
8.00 Little Polar Bear (3728552)
8.15 Medical Matters (3814303)
8.30 Quasimodo (72484)
9.00 Fully Booked (355007)
11.30 Sunday Grandstand (7674)
7.45 pm Stephen Hawking's Universe The professor charts the history of man's understanding of the night sky (646587)
8.35 Star Trek: Voyager A transporter accident causes chaos (786484)
9.20 For Richer, for Poorer: A Nation Decides Gordon Brewer in Edinburgh, John Humphrys in Wales and Sue Cameron in England attempt to gauge public opinion on devolution (906587)
10.10 FILM: She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949) John Wayne stars as a Cavalry officer on the brink of retirement (514552)
11.50 It's Just Not Cricket with Rory Bremner (732620)
12.20 am Cricket (2787359)
1.10 Weather (4486137) **1.15** Close
2.00 Learning Zone: Summer Nights: Discovering Art Essentials (32069) **4.00** Languages Business Language Special (78663) **5.00** Business and Work: Get by in French (99750) **5.30** Inland Revenue Self-Assessment (99175)

LWT/GRANADA/C'TRAL

6.00 am GMTV (724815)
9.00 ITN Coverage of the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales Continuous coverage of the funeral procession as it moves through the streets of Central London. The service at Westminster Abbey will be followed by a one-minute silence as a mark of respect to Diana, Princess of Wales (3142099)
4.00 pm The Darling Buds of May Comedy with David Jason and Catherine Zeta Jones (2525)
6.00 ITN News; Followed by Local News (54254)
7.00 Jane Austen's Emma Television adaptation of the classic romantic novel (83167)
9.00 Farewell to a Princess A special tribute programme (7167)
10.00 FILM: Mermaids (1990) 1960sromantic comedy starring Cher as an eccentric mother. With Bob Hoskins and Wynona Ryder (1877)
12.00 Italian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights Action from the day's qualifying session at Monza (2794649)
12.50 am In Bed with Me Dinner More comic observations from Bob Mills (4632303)
1.25 FILM: Delta Fever (164378)
3.00 Carnal Knowledge (9454910)
3.55 Rockmania (2556842)
4.50 The Chart Show The latest music video charts (8983033)
5.30 News (69668)

SUNDAY

6.00 am GMTV (7791755)
9.25 Disney Club Cartoon fun for children of all ages (2147620)
9.55 Holy Smoke A new religious series covering everthing from Anglicism to Zen Buddhism (1999823)
10.25 Morning Worship (5168991)
11.25 Devolution '97 — the Future of the Union An examination of the issues involved in home rule for Scotland and Wales (6406378)
12.15 pm ITN News (6845804)
12.20 Regional programmes (6866397)
12.30 F1: Italian Grand Prix Live coverage of the race in Monza (76025668)
3.10 FILM: Robin Hood (1990) Patrick Bergin stars as the heroic outlaw in this atmospheric version of the classic tale (19144026)
5.00 Treasures includes golf balls that are too valuable to lose and a man who refused £40,000 for his favourite comic book (2129)
5.30 Regional programmes (209587)
5.40 The Capital Mourns (730755)
6.15 ITN News (195282)
6.30 Survival Special A film following the efforts of a field biologist hunting for the elusive snow leopard of Mongolia and the Gobi bear (71736)
7.30 Coronation Street (129)
8.00 Heartbeat Police drama starring Nick Berry (3378)
9.00 ITN News (179674)
9.15 Agatha Christie's Poirot Detective drama starring David Suchet (695939)
11.15 F1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights from the day's action in Monza (770649)
12.15 am FILM: Indecency (114069)
1.55 F1: Italian Grand Prix (87718663)
4.40 Jonathan Dimbleby (5892576)
5.25 ITV Sport Classics (7943595)
5.30 The ITN Morning News (86601)

ANGLIA/HTV/WESTC'TY

6.00 am GMTV (724815)
9.00 ITN Coverage of the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales (3142099)
4.00 pm The Darling Buds of May (2525)
6.00 ITN News; Local News (54254)
7.00 Jane Austen's Emma (83167)
9.00 Farewell to a Princess (7167)
10.00 FILM: Mermaids (1877)
12.00 Italian GP Qualifying (2794649)
12.50 am FILM: Full Moon in Blue Water (777129) **2.35** Rockmania (6468465) **3.35** FILM: Mark of the Phoenix (8353113) **4.35** Dear Nick (4754692) **5.30** News (89668)

CHN 3 NE/YORKSHIRE

6.00 am GMTV (724815)
9.00 ITN Coverage of the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales (3142099)
4.00 pm The Darling Buds of May (2525)
6.00 ITN News; Local News (54254)
7.00 Jane Austen's Emma (83167)
9.00 Farewell to a Princess (7167)
10.00 FILM: Mermaids (1877)
12.00 Italian GP Qualifying (2794649)
12.50 am TBA (314194) **2.40** Coach (8991129) **3.05** Planet Mirth (69780991) **3.30** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (97606262) **3.55** Helter Skelter (4164804) **4.45** Murder, She Wrote (5920303) **5.30** News (69668)

SUNDAY

ANGLIA/HTV/WESTC'TY

6.00 am As ITV until 3.10pm
3.10 The Cosby Mysteries (5569755)
4.10 Regional programmes (2388262)
5.10 Regional programmes (8445736)
6.10 Regional programmes (300216)
6.15 ITN News (195282)
6.30 Survival Special (71736)
7.30 Coronation Street (129)
8.00 Heartbeat (3378)
9.00 ITN News (179674)
9.15 Agatha Christie's Poirot (695939)
11.15 F1: Italian Grand Prix (770649)
12.15 am Chart Show (2779972)
1.05 FILM: Night of the Hunter (183885)
2.50 The Paul Ross Show (8909137)
4.15 The Mysterious West (30576)
4.45 Sound Bites (29592953)
5.00 Coronation Street (93576)
5.30 News (86601)

CHN 3 NE/YORKSHIRE

6.00 am As ITV until 3.10pm
3.10 Cartoon Time (4460303)
3.15 Coronation Street (1880007)
4.10 FILM: Robin Hood (42095945)
6.00 Regional programmes (144587)
6.15 ITN News (195282)
6.30 Survival Special (71736)
7.30 Coronation Street (129)
8.00 Heartbeat (3378)
9.00 ITN News (179674)
9.15 Agatha Christie's Poirot (695939)
11.15 F1: Italian Grand Prix (770649)
12.15 am FILM: Brotherhood of the Gun (354750)
1.50 FILM: Anth (87737798)
4.30 Jobfinder (93972)
5.30 News (86601)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 am Sesame St 6.55 Dennis **7.15** Sonic the Hedgehog **7.45** The Finder **8.00** Dr Seuss on the Loose **8.25** For Better or Worse **8.50** Cadillacs and Dinosaurs **9.15** The Adventures of Tin Tin **10.00** Back to the Future **10.25** The Legend of White Fang **10.50** The Adventures of Mole **11.40** Prince Cinders **12.05pm** Abel's Island **12.35** Eerie Indiana: Who's Who
1.00 Channel 4 News Summary (83333341)
1.10 FILM: Smoky (6802273)
2.35 FILM: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (54945341)
4.10 Wildside (4227167)
4.35 Alex Mack (6211508)
5.00 Animation (9479186)
5.05 Brookside (8648148)
6.30 Serenade to a Princess (525)
7.00 Channel 4 News Special: Diana - the People's Day (2917051)
8.05 Stones of the Raj (246051)
8.35 Mark Tully's Faces of India (144254)
9.00 ER (5709)
10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (18964)
10.30 Homicide: Life on the Street (444715)
11.25 Nights Out at the Empire (580506)
12.15 am Crapston Villas (2583194)
12.35 The Client 1.30 St Elsewhere **2.30** The New Twilight Zone **2.55** Pearl **3.25** The Naked Truth **3.50** Planet Showbiz **4.15** Porkpie **4.40** Dweebs **5.05** Partners **5.40** Blitz **5.40** Close

S4C

6.50am Children's TV **10.15** Angladd, Diana, Tywysoges Cymru **12.30pm** To be announced **7.00** News **7.35** Tom Nefyn **9.15** Portreadau: Phyllis Kinney **9.50** FILM: Someone Else's Child **11.35** Homicide. Life on the Street **12.35am** The Client **1.30** St Elsewhere **2.30** New Twilight Zone **2.55** Pearl **3.25** Naked Truth **3.50** Planet Showbiz **4.15** Porkpie **4.40** Dweebs **5.05** Partners **5.30** Diwedd

SUNDAY

6.35 am Clangers 6.45 Hong Kong Phooey **7.10** The Herbs **7.20** Camberwick Green **7.40** Hammerman **8.05** Doug **8.20** Inspector Gadget **8.50** Hang Time **9.20** Rocko **9.45** Saved by the Bell: The College Years
10.15 Happy Days (9967533)
10.40 Hollyoaks (3243303)
11.40 The Waltons (7552939)
12.40 pm FILM: Bataan (62699007)
2.45 FILM: The One That Got Away (244674)
4.45 News and Weather (2972842)
4.50 Travelog Treks (5379378)
5.00 The Potter, the Miner and the Papermaker (5741)
5.30 The Secrets of Loch Ness (98533)
6.30 Grand Prix Athletics (11587)
8.00 Byzantium: The Lost Empire (4620)
9.00 Ian Hislop's School Rules (4484)
10.00 FILM: Miller's Crossing (73860129)
12.05 am To Hell and Back 12.40 Roam Sweet Home **1.40** FILM: Sardar **4.50** Calcutta Chronicles **5.20** Bombay Chat **5.45** Sun's Gonna Shine

S4C

6.35am As Channel 4 until 10.15am House Gang **10.40** Hollyoaks **11.40** The Waltons **12.40pm** To be announced **12.55** Snap! **1.25** Space Cadets **1.55** Brookside **3.20** Hollol Bananas **3.45** Pobol y Cwm **5.40** Y Clwb Rygbi **8.00** Goreuon Eisteddfod Metrion A'r Cyffiniau **8.30** Sion a Sian **9.00** Newyddion **9.10** Manifiesto **9.40** Grand Prix Athletics: BUPa Series Final **11.10** FILM: Mortal Passions (1990) **12.55am** House Gang **1.25** Diwedd

CHANNEL 5

6.00 am Dappledown Farm (7139877)
6.30 Attractions (6338726)
7.00 5 News Early (5874254)
7.30 Wimzie's House (5853761)
8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (3912803)
8.30 Land of the Lost (4362344)
9.00 Beverly Hills 90210 (8898849)
9.55 5 News: Funeral of Diana Princess of Wales Live coverage of the funeral procession as it moves from Kensington Palace to Westminster Abbey. The day's broadcast will include a one-minute silence as a mark of respect for Diana, Princess of Wales (71208490)
1.00 pm FILM: Something So Right (26851438)
2.50 Animal Calypso (4027457)
3.15 Sunset Beach (81642761)
5.55 5 News and Sport (3552983)
6.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (7887148)
6.50 Night Fever (2435885)
7.45 5 News and Sport (9117709)
8.05 Xena: Warrior Princess (1836419)
9.00 A Mind to Kill (96839631)
10.50 FILM: Circuitry Man (76349099)
12.30 am FILM: Courage (51121620)
3.10 FILM: Outcast of the Islands (7814736)
4.55 Night Stand (5570587)
5.30 Whittle (7023262)

SUNDAY

6.00 am Animal Omens (7033649)
6.30 Havakazoo (6225200)
7.00 Dappledown Farm (5778026)
7.30 Wimzie's House (5757533)
8.00 Mr Men and Little Miss (6458133)
8.05 The Wind in the Willows (1221755)
8.30 The Valley Between (3611856)
9.00 Mirror, Mirror (3239656)
9.30 Mag Plus (9168736)
10.00 Do You Believe In? (6216552)
10.30 My Sunday (3716200)
11.00 Mariella Frostrup's Brunch (6852262)
11.30 Exclusive Weekend (92066991)
12.50 pm 5 News (43390736)
1.00 The Mag (9167007)
2.00 USA High (44693113)
2.20 The Mag (2359991)
3.15 Family Affairs (99861754)
5.25 Wild Encounters (6319026)
6.25 5 News and Sport (4902736)
6.30 Flock Rockin' Beats (9376194)
7.00 Foul Play (1675295)
8.00 Melrose Place (1724620)
8.55 5 News and Sport (6490378)
9.00 FILM: American Friends (96806303)
10.50 Turnstyle (8767533)
11.50 Live and Dangerous (49038939)
5.00 am Live and Dangerous (9352595)

SKY NEWS

Sky News will present live and comprehensive coverage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales with regular news updates and tribute programmes throughout the weekend

These listings are correct at time of going to press. Due to the coverage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, all channels are subject to last minute changes and / or cancellations. Further information for selected programmes may be found in today's edition of The Directory.

Ferrari fanatics will accept only victory for team's fiftieth anniversary

Schumacher rides above the hysteria

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN IN MONZA

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER noticed the panic in the eyes of a young boy who was in danger of being submerged by the scrum in front of the Ferrari garage here yesterday morning. He ushered him forward, scribbled an autograph and returned him to his mother. It was an endearingly gentle gesture with inevitable consequences.

The crowd surged towards Schumacher, babbling excitedly. Three bodyguards materialised by his side. A possee of photographers scuffled in the corner. In the stark, concrete slab of a main stand on the opposite side of the track, the spectators, propelled to their feet by a strange form of emotional osmosis, rose as one. Ferrari were back in town. *La passione* was unchecked.

The Autodromo Nazionale, set in the verdant acres of a former royal park in the otherwise inconsequential town of Monza, might be renowned as the cathedral of Formula One, but it has more in common with a circus tent. Emotions are exaggerated, disbelief is suspended. The mundane realities of everyday life cease to matter.

Much, too much, is taken for granted by the *tifosi*, the fanatics who quite literally climb the walls. Popular opinion decrees that nothing less than a Ferrari victory in the Italian Grand Prix tomorrow will do justice to the team's fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Thirteenth place for Schumacher in free practice, 2.2sec off the pace set by Heinz-Harald Frentzen, was regarded as something akin to disgrace.

The romanticism of the Ferrari legend is reflected by the florid language of the banners draped over the wire fence which faces the pit-lane. "Ferrari you are a marvellous creature" reads one. "Schummy you are our guardian angel" says another.

A third, directed at his teammate, Eddie Irvine, insists, somewhat incomprehensibly: "You have the eyes of the Irish sky".

The *tifosi* revere risk, worship tradition. Gerhard Berger might be in the twilight of his career with Benetton, but he was canonised the moment his Ferrari won the 1988 Italian Grand Prix, a month after the death of Enzo Ferrari, the team's founder. "Continue to warm us with your smile" implore the terrace scribblers, who are evidently graduates of the Adrian Mole school of creative writing. "Look at the sky Gerhard. It is the only thing bigger than you."

Yet they are intolerant of failure, scathing when assumptions of superiority are undermined. Influenced by a hysterical press, which distorts rumour into fact on a daily basis, they are the instruments of needless change.

"The pressure is always there, it really is," Irvine said. "As long as you're doing well it's great, but if you're not, well ..." His wry grin rendered words meaningless.

Italy instinctively understands the grand gesture, the selfless struggle of the local boy made good. Generations of schoolboys have been weaned on the heroics of Francesco Baracca, the doomed First World War pilot, whose symbol of a black prancing horse, which decorated the plane in which he died, was adopted by Enzo Ferrari as a mark of respect.

The life of Ferrari, the *Commendatore*, has been rewritten as a morality play. He was invalided out of the Somme, where he tended mules, and was refused work. Legend depicts him weeping with shame, lingering in a local park on a bitter winter's day and promising to better himself. Yet mythology masks reality. He used people shamelessly as he built an empire which often veered on the edge of implosion. He was a manipulative figure, capable of casual cruelty, and took unashamed delight in playing his drivers off against each other. The team are perennial underachievers, habitually governed by committee and plagued by the type of political in-fighting that encourages mediocrity.

Yet Schumacher dares to be different. He refuses to pay homage to history, and is openly dismissive of embroidered tales of derring-do. "I don't know anything about Ferrari's past," he admitted. "Probably I will understand much more when I am older, once I am out of the business." The unspoken conclusion, that emotion is excess baggage, may verge on heresy but it is the key to his season.

Pressure comes in different forms. Damon Hill's sixteenth place suggested he was diverted by the prospect of completing a move to the Prost team. Schumacher, by contrast, was visibly at ease with the responsibility of protecting his championship lead.

Should he engineer Ferrari's first world title since Jody Scheckter won in 1979, he will have broken the mould. The old ways, of bluff and bluster and divide and rule, will be forever tainted. It will be a long-awaited success for multinationalism.

Schumacher embodies Teutonic efficiency: Jean Todt, the team manager, employs Gallic cunning; and Ross Brawn, the technical director, represents the analytical traditions of the British motor racing industry. The Italian charm, and the cash, is supplied by Luca di Montezemelo, the chairman, who returned to Ferrari after organising the 1990 World Cup.

"It could be that the sport is on the cusp of another period of Ferrari domination," Scheckter says. "Montezemelo made the money available for it to happen. Todt put the infrastructure there, and Schumacher has put it all together. This year could be just the start."

Such statements stimulate a dangerous sense of anticipation in the makeshift campsite which scars the park. The *tifosi* are impatient, impulsive. They demand nothing but the best. Nothing but victory in the only race that really matters.



With the Ferrari prancing horse in attendance, Schumacher checks his rivals' practice times at Monza yesterday. "I don't know anything about Ferrari's past," he admitted

DETAILS

PRACTICE TIMES (3.585 miles): 1, H-H Frentzen (Ger) Williams-Renault, 1min 23.991sec (average speed, 247.312 kmph); 2, J Villeneuve (Can) Williams-Renault, 1.24.837; 3, J Alesi (Fr) Benetton-Renault, 1.24.847; 4, D Coulthard (GB) McLaren-Mercedes, 1.25.050; 5, G Fisichella (It) Jordan-Peugeot, 1.25.050; 6, M Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren-Mercedes, 1.25.096; 7, J Trulli (It) Prost-Mugen-Honda, 1.25.317; 8, E Irvine (Ire) Ferrari, 1.25.340; 9, R Schumacher (Ger) Jordan-Peugeot, 1.25.422; 10, J Magnussen (Den) Stewart-Ford, 1.25.488; 11, G Berger (Austria) Benetton-Renault, 1.25.559; 12, J Herbert (GB) Sauber, 1.25.845, 13, M Schumacher (Ger) Ferrari, 1.26.224; 14, P Diniz (Br) Arrows-Yamaha, 1.26.246; 15, R Barrichello (Br) Stewart-Ford, 1.26.421; 16, D Hill (GB) Arrows-Yamaha, 1.26.502, 17, M Salo (Fin) Tyrrell-Ford, 1.26.608; 18, G Morbidelli (It) Sauber, 1.26.696; 19, S Nakano (Japan) Prost-Mugen-Honda, 1.26.727; 20, J Verstappen (Holl) Tyrrell-Ford, 1.26.755; 21, U Katayama (Japan) Minardi-Hart, 1.26.891; 22, T Marques (Br) Minardi-Hart, 1.28.388.

LATEST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after 12 of 17 rounds): Drivers: 1 M Schumacher (Ger) 66pts, 2 J Villeneuve (Can) 55, 3 H-H Frentzen (Ger) 23, 4 J Alesi (Fr) 22, 5 G Berger (Austria) 21, 6 E Irvine (GB) 18, 7 O Panis (Fr) 15, equal 8 M Hakkinen (Fin), D Coulthard (GB), G Fisichella (It) and J Herbert (GB) 14, 12 R Schumacher (Ger) 11, 13 D Hill (GB) 7, 14 R Barrichello (Br) 6, 15 A Wurz (Austria) 4, 16 J Trulli (It) 3, 17 M Salo (Fin) 2, equal 18 S Nakano (Japan) and N Larini (It) 1. Constructors: 1, Ferrari 84pts; 2, Williams-Renault 78; 3, Benetton-Renault 47; 4, McLaren-Mercedes 28; 5, Jordan-Peugeot 25; 6, Prost Mugen-Honda 20; 7, Sauber-Petronas 15; 8, Arrows-Yamaha 7; 9, Stewart-Ford 6; 10, Tyrrell-Ford 2.

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX: Tomorrow: Italian (Monza) Sept 21: Austria (A-1 Ring). Sept 28: Luxembourg (Nurburgring). Oct 12: Japan (Suzuka) Oct 26: Europe (Jerez).

ROWING

Redgrave ready to augment gold tally

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL ROWING CORRESPONDENT IN AIGUEBELETTE

STEVE REDGRAVE will, as always, be "calling the shots" to his crew mates in the British coxless four when he goes for his seventh world championship gold medal today. The crew are overwhelming favourites and did not extend themselves when winning their heat and semi-final.

Their coach, Jurgen Gröbler, caused raised eyebrows when he mentioned 5min 43sec as a target time. Redgrave said: "We have reached most of his targets in the past."

British rowing, generally, has more than reached its target, with 13 of the 19-boat team in finals this weekend — a result, most admit, of the £1.8 million lottery grant as well as dedication and natural ability.

Tim Foster, No 3 in the coxless four, said yesterday: "This is the first time I will leave a world championships without wondering how to pay for it."

Miriam Batten, who with Gillian Lindsay lines up in the women's doubles final, won Britain's first heavyweight women's world medal, in 1991, but was going to retire after the Olympic Games in Atlanta. Financial help and the arrival of Mike Spracklen as coach changed her mind and the duo have realistic medal hopes, although Germany are the favourites.

Two other British fours, apart from the Redgrave crew, are medal possibilities. The men's coxed four appear capable of bronze. An entry of only six crews in the women's coxless fours led to a straight final today, but the British crew, winners and course record-holders in Lucerne, have been kept busy since they are also in the women's eights final tomorrow.

Although it is difficult to visualise any gold medals apart from the men's coxless four, the arrival of a series of bronze will depend even more than usual on "getting it right on the day".



Redgrave: in command

Many British qualifiers have done that already this week. All three eights have excelled and the lightweight men, in particular, are great scrappers. Sean Bowden, the chief lightweight coach, said: "I wouldn't like to race them."

The men's heavyweight eight has kept pressure on all their older opponents and the women, unraced before last Monday, have been a revelation, backing up the prediction of David Tanner, the team manager, that they would prove "faster than calm reason suggests".

Guin Batten, the sculler who was fifth in Atlanta, lines up adjacent to the Olympic champion, Ekaterina Khodotovitch, from Belarus, today. "I have more consistency and there are more people around my speed this year," she said. Being next to the Olympic champion could help her.

Greg Searle's appearance in the men's final is more than even he had hoped for in his first year of sculling. The draw places him next to another converted rower, James Koven, of the United States, who was conquered by Searle in the Diamond Sculls at Henley. Jane Hall, Britain's lightweight woman, intends to enjoy herself as the underdog. "It is about who has got it mentally right on the day," she said. "There is less pressure on me than the others."

EQUESTRIANISM

O'Connor makes light work of testing dressage

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

DAVID O'CONNOR, a member of the United States silver medal-winning team at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, took the lead at the three-quarters stage of the dressage phase of The Blenheim Vauxhall Monterey International Horse Trials yesterday after a superb test on Joseph Zada's 11-year-old gelding, Lightfoot.

The 35-year-old Virginian, who won at Badminton in May on Custom Made, has a 2.4-point lead, ahead of Mark Todd, the dual Olympic champion from New Zealand, on Word for Word. Katie Meacham, the overnight leader, had dropped to third place, with Owl Creek.

Lightfoot, on which O'Connor was in the lead at Lexington earlier this year until he incurred ten penalty points in the final showjumping phase — allowing his wife, Karen, to win on Worth the Trust — was one of three rides that the American had available for the Open European championships, which start on Thursday at Burghley.

Having plumped for Custom Made for the championships, with Giltedge, the horse on which he gained his Olympic medal, as his reserve horse, O'Connor decided to bring Lightfoot to Blenheim. Despite a hazardous start to his international career — the horse was run over by ambulance on the cross-country course at the Boekelo event in Holland two years ago — he has become one of the most reliable performers.

Having underlined his form with a fine performance in finishing fourth at the Scottish championships at Thirlestane last month, O'Connor , a stylish and determined rider, will be hard to dislodge in the influential speed and endurance phase tomorrow. Karen O'Connor, who has been named with her husband on the United States team for the European championships, is in twelfth place on Worth the Trust.

Todd, who is in third place behind his compatriots, Andrew Nicholson and Blyth Tait, in the FEI world three-day event rankings, was delighted with his test on Word for Word. Aged eight, the New Zealand-bred thoroughbred is one of the youngest horses competing and the cross-country tomorrow will be his sternest test so far.

However, the course, designed by Mike Etherington-Smith, who will design the Olympic course at Sydney in 2000, has taken Todd by surprise. "I particularly brought this horse to Blenheim because he's very accurate and I thought that the course would be similar to last year," he said. "Now I find it's much more of a straightforward, galloping course. I just hope it suits him."

Other good tests yesterday came from Owen Moore, of Great Britain, on Prime Contender, who was fourth, and Ian Stark, a leading member of the squad for the championships next week, who was fifth on The Moose. After two falls in recent weeks, the selectors will be anxiously watching Stark's performance over the 28-fence course tomorrow.

STANDINGS (at three-quarters stage of dressage): 1, Lightfoot (D O'Connor, US) 48.0; 2, Word for Word (M Todd, NZ) 49.6; 3, Owl Creek (K Meacham, GB) 49.8; 4, Prime Contender (O Moore) 50.2; 5, The Moose (I Stark, GB) 51.2; 6, William Hill (N McDonnell) 52.6.

GOLF: THREAT OF LEGAL ACTION BY MARTIN AND CONTROVERSY OVER GREENS SOURS ATMOSPHERE

Long, hard European season ends in acrimony

JOHN HOPKINS


on the dog days of a golfing summer

The end of summer has been a difficult time for the PGA European Tour these past few years. With the row this week between Miguel Angel Martin and the Ryder Cup committee overshadowing the deplorable state of the greens here in Crans, where the European Masters is taking place, this summer has been no different.

In 1994, Nick Faldo announced that he was leaving his home on the continent to compete more in the United States. He was going, he said, because of the uneven quality of the courses in Europe. He was also unhappy about the putting surfaces on many of the greens.

The autumn of 1995 was marked by José Maria Olazábal's withdrawal from competitive play with a foot injury that was later diagnosed as a hernia on the base of his spine. Two years ago, almost to the week, Olazábal withdrew from the Ryder Cup team saying he was not fit enough to play 36 holes in a day.

At the end of August and the beginning of September 1996 the professionals who competed in the One 2 One British Masters at Collingtree were presented with greens of poor quality that looked blue. Once again there was an outcry and the European Tour apologised.

A year on, Colin Montgomerie and Nick Faldo could not conceal their dismay when they reached Crans. Heavy rain had caused the greens to become waterlogged and then there was a disagreement between the European Tour and local greenkeeping staff as to the remedial treatment that was needed.

"They are the worst greens I have ever seen," Montgomerie said. Faldo even mischievously suggested playing the course from the greens to the tees.

The leading players receive considerable financial inducement to appear in tournaments such as this one and thus have an obligation not to complain too much in public.

'Els thinks the tour is going backwards'

But Faldo's patience was tested to the limit, as was Montgomerie's, because he felt there had been little improvement since 1994. Recently Ernie Els, who hails from South Africa, said that he thought the European Tour was, if anything, going backwards.

"Whatever the system is now it is not working," Faldo said. "We have got to review the system. We said this last year. I would like to think they would do something about it. Ken [Schofield] has done a great job increasing the money but we want to play on better, tougher courses."

As if this was not enough for Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, and John Paramor, the director of this tournament, there was also the threat hanging over the Ryder Cup committee, of which Schofield is an ex-officio member, posed by Martin's threatened legal action.

Martin, who was dismissed from the Europe Ryder Cup team, is trying to be reinstated and there is even hyperbolic talk of an injunction to stop the competition from going ahead.

Yesterday was the day when Martin was due to test his injured wrist with some light chipping practice. He has entered the British Masters tournament the week after next and he is clearly belligerent.

Schofield, though, is relaxed. The Ryder Cup committee's lawyers say that there is little chance of such an injunction being successful. It is more likely, Schofield said, that compensation will have to be paid for loss of income to Martin.

"We've got to move on," Schofield said. "We have got to have the captain and his men in position at Valderrama about 6pm in two Mondays' time. We cannot delay any further."

Hardly were those words out of his mouth than there came news of an incident between two caddies on Thursday night that ended with a fight and a stabbing.

As a result, one ended in hospital, the other in court and was being held in custody. Both will be banned from the tour. The dog days of summer, indeed.

Montgomerie adds walkout threat to course attack

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

COLIN MONTGOMERIE is not the most patient of men at the best of times, but the state of the course at Crans-sur-Sierre is testing his patience to the limit. After a round of 72, one over par, that left him languishing eight strokes behind the leader of the Canon European Masters — another Scot, Scott Henderson — Montgomerie said that he was ready to walk out of the tournament.

"Do you want the truth?" he asked, with an answer ready, just in case. "If I didn't have a contract to be here, I would have gone home as soon as I saw this. I haven't made up my mind whether I go home now or not. One thing I don't like doing in my life is wasting my time. I am wasting my time right now."

His mood was not helped by a letter given to all players from Gaston Barras, the president of the tournament's organising committee, regretting the state of the greens and saying it was the fault of his staff. "Just another excuse," Montgomerie said dismissively.

His disgust at the course in Switzerland is shared, to a greater or lesser degree, by all the players taking part in the event, but while Nick Faldo had called the greens the worst he had ever seen, he was much happier yesterday after adding a 65 to his opening 66. On 11 under par, he trailed Henderson by only three shots and said: "Winning here would be a nice little boost before we get ready for the Ryder Cup. I'm a little surprised to be 11 under, because the ball is jumping all over the show."

Henderson, from Aberdeen, who made it through the qualifying school at the fifth attempt last year, added a 66 to his first round 62 for a 14-under-par total of 128 that was only two shots outside the tour record for this stage of a tournament. "I'm enjoying seeing my name up at the top of the leaderboard," he said. "I wish it was there more often.

"I know everybody is bitching about the greens, but there's no point losing it there. Nobody's going to go through the week without missing from a foot."

Henderson did miss from 18 inches at the 5th yesterday, but that was more than made up for by his six birdies, two of them on the temporary greens being used at the 6th and 8th. Faldo birdied both of those holes, too.

Severiano Ballesteros was among the late starters and he said that he had not been able to get to sleep until 2.30am after a succession of phone calls asking him about the expulsion of his compatriot, Miguel Angel Martin, from his Ryder Cup side. "This is making me an old man," Ballesteros, 40, said.

Trish Johnson, the holder, closed on the lead with a second round of 69 in the French Women's Open at Paris International yesterday. The round left the Briton at one under par on 143, just one stroke behind Karen Lunn, of Australia, who added a 70 to her opening round of 72.

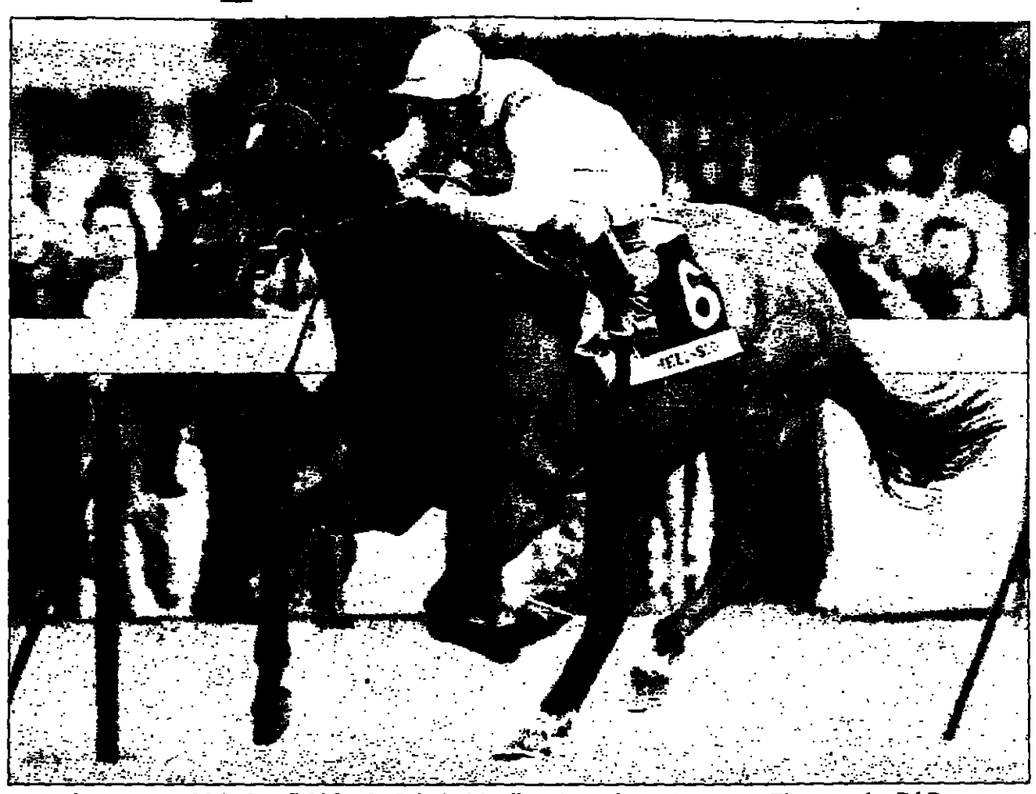
Johnson and Lunn were in the same threesome, starting from the 10th tee. Johnson overtook the Australian when she hit three birdies in a row from the 2nd hole, but pulled her seven iron into the water for a double-bogey five at the short 6th.

هكذا من الاصل

Chris McGrath assesses an intriguing contest for the Prix du Moulin tomorrow

Spinning World can eclipse Arc winner





The outstanding miler Spinning World, left, and Helissio, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, are the leading contenders among a high-class field for the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp tomorrow. Photographs: Ed Byrne

The Emirats Prix du Moulin is named in honour of the old windmill that lends such rustic charm, in a Parisian suburb, to the racecourse at Longchamp. It would appear, however, that connections of Helissio have taken that dangerously to heart, in that they are surely tilting at windmills by running him in tomorrow's race.

What they are really tilting at, of course, is a windfall. If their middle-distance champion can give Spinning World, the crack miler, a run for his money over his specialist distance, Helissio will add immeasurably to his value as a stallion: it is a magnificent gamble — and a rebuke to the craven lack of adventure that characterises the placement of many good racehorses.

Enrique Sarasola, the bold Spaniard who owns Helissio, takes the view that the colt would prove nothing by bludgeoning a small field of inferiors in the Prix Foy — the conventional route towards a defence of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe next month.

Equally, Helissio has nothing to lose, dropped to a mile for the first time in his career. His principal asset is the bravado of his cruising speed, but — should he be outpaced — it would be as forgivable as triumph would be unforgettable.



Asmussen: patient



Peslier: polished

Anyone contemplating a bet, however, has to take the unromantic view that Spinning World will respond without mercy to his impudent challenger. He will, significantly, have a little help from his friends. The Niarchos family is again running the useful sprinter, Piperi, who effectively "spoilt" the Prix Jacques le Marois at Deauville last month for the front-running Starborough.

Piperi can likewise be expected to hustle Helissio in an attempt to prevent him relaxing. Starborough finished exhausted at Deauville, and the polished Olivier Peslier must reach new heights if he is to preserve Helissio's particular strength, which is his domineering style of racing, against his particular weakness. For his defeat in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot last time out, like his defeat in the Prix du Jockey-Club at Chantilly last year, resulted in part from a failure to settle as others engaged him in a bruising battle for the lead.

Cash Asmussen, who rode Helissio at Ascot, must now be only too happy to honour his commitment to Spinning World. At Deauville, typically, he waited patiently for the drama up front to take its inevitable course before pouncing late to beat Daylami with total authority in a race-record time. Spinning World is an admirable colt, skilfully handled by Jonathon Pease, and can lend this most sporting of contests an appropriate lustre.

His Achilles' heel, as he demonstrated when failing in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury in the spring, is that he runs with most zest when fresh. That race was said to have come too soon after his reappearance win at Saint-Cloud: one has to trust that, after a three-month break before Deauville, a three-week interval will suffice tomorrow.

If the ground were to dry out, one would be entitled to look to Rebecca Sharp, trained by Geoff Wragg, as the likeliest source of a turn-up. The Coronation Stakes winner's creditable second to Daneskaya at Deauville came in a race run a full five seconds slower than the Jacques le Marois; the much stronger pace that is guaranteed here, combined with the chance to race round a bend, should see her reverse form with the winner, at the very least.

The other British raider, Bijou D'Inde, could hardly find a less friendly reception on his comeback; he injured a tendon when brought down in the Dubai World Cup and has been off the course since. But his stablemate, Double Eclipse, provides an inspiring example of a gradual return to top-class form after severe training problems — and can underline the continuing superiority of British stayers in the Prix Gladiateur.

He will be joined by two more British challengers, Orchestra Stall, trained by John Dunlop, and Peter Chapple-Hyam's Chief Contender, among the seven-strong field in search of the group three prize. Of the home team, Stretarez, three times a winner this term, is likely to offer the greatest threat.

LONGCHAMP TOMORROW

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

2.30 EMIRATS PRIX DU MOULIN DE LONGCHAMP
(Group I: £101,010: 1m) (9 runners)

1	(5)	1236-46	BIJOU D'INDE 157 (D,F,G) (J Mortimer) M Johnston (GB) 4-9-2	J Weaver
2	(8)	122-141	SPINNING WORLD 21 (CD,F,G,S) (Niarchos Family) J Pease 4-9-2	C Asmussen
3	(3)	113-113	HELISSIO 43 (BF,C,F,G,S) (E Sarasola) E Lellouche 4-9-2	O Peslier
4	(6)	26-3321	DANESKAYA 35 (D,G) (Haras d'Etreham) A Fabre 4-8-13	A Junk
5	(7)	12-1132	DAYLAMI 21 (CD,G,S) (HH Aga Khan) A de Royer-Dupre 3-8-11	G Mosse
6	(4)	-1413	NEURLY 21 (D,G,S) (Mme P de Moussac) A Fabre 3-8-11	T Jarnet
7	(1)	-521516	PIPERI 21 (D,G,S) (Niarchos Family) J Pease 3-8-11	F Sanchez
8	(2)	00-1145	CLASSIC PARK 39 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Burrell) A P O'Brien (Ire) 3-8-8	J Reid
9	(9)	2-10152	REBECCA SHARP 35 (D,F,G) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg (GB) 3-8-8	M Hills

BETTING: 7-4 Spinning World, Piperi (coupled), 2-1 Helissio, 7-2 Daylami, 8-1 Rebecca Sharp, 12-1 Daneskaya, 14-1 Neuilly, 16-1 Bijou D'Inde, 20-1 Classic Park.

1996: ASHKALANI 3-8-11 G Mosse (4-5 fav) A de Royer-Dupre 9 ran

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Bath (first race, 2.00), Southwell (AW, 2.15).
TUESDAY: Leicester (2.15), Lingfield Park (AW, 2.00)
WEDNESDAY: Doncaster (C4, 1.30), Kempton Park (1.45), Exeter (2.20).
THURSDAY: Doncaster (C4, 2.05), Chepstow (2.15), Newton Abbot (2.25).
FRIDAY: Doncaster (C4, 1.30), Goodwood (BBC, 2.10), Worcester (2.20).
SATURDAY: Doncaster (C4, 2.00), Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Bangor (2.10), Worcester (2.25).
Flat meetings in bold

☐ Compton Place, withdrawn from yesterday's Haydock Park Sprint Cup because of soft ground, could run in the Racal Diadem Stakes at Ascot later this month, his trainer, James Toller, said.

Irish control Moyglare

THE withdrawal of Bahr and Crazee Mental, the intended British challengers, has left an all-Irish field for the group one Moyglare Stud Stakes over six furlongs at the Curragh tomorrow. The trainer of Crazee Mental, Derek Haydn Jones, reported that his filly, runner-up in the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket, had not recovered from the injury that denied her a run in the Lowther Stakes at York last month.

"She still has a slight haematoma on her shoulder from the accident she had in the stables at York," the Pontypridd trainer said. "We have been monitoring it day by day. It has 99 per cent disappeared, but she has missed two pieces of work, so she will go to Newmarket instead."

Aidan O'Brien trains five of the remaining 12 runners in the Ir£150,000 race, headed by Heeremandi, a creditable third in the Prix Morny on her latest start.

Con Collins runs Lady Alexander, the winner of the Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood last time out. She gained the distinction of being the only horse to beat O'Brien's 2,000 Guineas joint-favourite, King Of Kings, when successful in the Anglesey Stakes in July. Jim Bolger, whose Priory Belle gained a rare home win in the Moyglare two years ago, is represented by recent Leopardstown winner Remarkable Style.

There is British interest in the group three Trusted Partner Matron Stakes over a mile in which David Elsworth, the Whitsbury trainer, runs Supercal, third over course and distance in the Desmond Stakes last month. The filly's main rivals appear to be Tout A Coup, the winner of a listed race at Cork last month, and Clerio, a French challenger.

Fitzgerald faces three-week break

MICK FITZGERALD yesterday revealed that he faces a three-week spell on the sidelines after being knocked out at Fontwell Park on Thursday, and not one week as was originally thought.

The jump jockey will be out of action until September 25 after being rendered unconscious when his mount Green Buck fell in the opening selling hurdle. "I was out for three minutes and the rule is that if you are out for more than a minute you are stood down for 21 days," Fitzgerald said yesterday.

"They actually wrote seven days in my medical book, but I knew it would be 21 days. They rang me on my way home to say they had got it wrong and Dr Michael Turner spoke to me this morning."

Similar confusion arose over the length of time Tony McCoy was unconscious after a fall at Uttoxeter last spring, eventually ruling the champion jockey out of riding in the Grand National.

"I don't feel too bad today," the Irishman said. "Although obviously I have got a bit of a headache! I have been quite fortunate in the sense that my own stable, that of Nicky Henderson, doesn't have too many horses to run at the moment. I just hope this will be my last 'holiday' of the season."

Fitzgerald made the news last month when he rode nine successive winners — just one short of the record for a jump jockey. "After my good start I thought I could be in for a good season if I stayed injury-free," he said. "But you never can tell in this game."

Jockey Club press officer John Maxse admitted yesterday: "While making his routine report to the Jockey Club the racecourse medical officer on duty at Fontwell realised that he should have stood Fitzgerald down for 21 days, rather than seven, after Fitzgerald's fall that afternoon when the rider had been unconscious for a period of four minutes.

"Fitzgerald was contacted last night by the racecourse medical officer and informed of the correction."

☐ The future of a project to establish a new racecourse for the year 2000 must overcome an important hurdle next week. The development of a site at Pembrey, on the South Wales coast, will be discussed by members of the British Horseracing Board (BHB) on Tuesday.

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 6Aug-12 Sep (Gallery closed 16-31 Aug) Summer Exhibition. 11 Motcomb St SW1 Mon-Fri 10-6pm Tel 0171 235 8144

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RUTHIE UTE HENSHALL LEMPER
HENRY GOODMAN
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ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444 Mon-Sat 8 Thur 3 Sat 4.30 ROY MARSDEN "Perfection" D Exp MICHAEL ELPHICK "Delicious" E Std in BERNARD SHAW'S
PYGMALION
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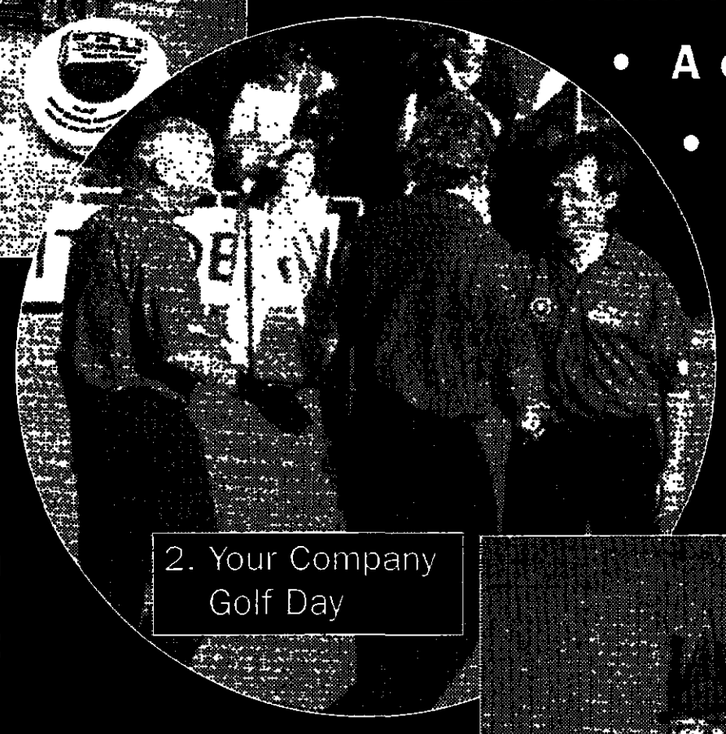


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CRICKET

Durham's defiance ends with Boon

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

EVEN the batting heroics of David Boon could not prevent Warwickshire's onward march to victory and to Durham station for the 5.02 train to King's Cross for the NatWest Trophy final tomorrow.

They trooped off buoyantly yesterday having captured the final five Durham wickets in 2¼ hours to win by an innings and 99 runs, with Dougie Brown returning match figures of seven for 67. It completed a win which had seemed inevitable from the first day when Wagh and Knight shared an opening partnership of 206.

At least Boon, the Durham captain, brought a modicum of respectability as they lost at home for the first time in the championship this summer. He scored 81 in five hours before he was caught behind edging Donald to Piper.

Lancashire lost a nail-biting match with Essex by 26 runs at Old Trafford despite the brave efforts of Hegg, who scored 55 before being bowled by Such, and Green, who was dismissed leg-before on 51.

Grayson took two wickets to end Lancashire's chase as they finished 324 all out.

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four): Warwickshire (23pts) beat Durham (5) by an innings and 99 runs

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 412 (M A Wagh 124, N V Knight 92; S J E Brown 4 for 135)

DURHAM: First Innings 118

Second Innings

J J B Lewis c Piper b Brown	3
S Hutton c Ostler b Brown	0
J E Morris c Penney b Giles	28
*D C Boon c Piper b Donald	81
†M P Speight lbw b Donald	14
R M S Weston run out	0
M J Foster b Brown	22
M M Betts b Brown	6
J Boiling b Donald	8
S J E Brown not out	10
A Walker c Brown b Smith	1
Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 12)	22
Total	195

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-7, 3-40, 4-83, 5-97, 6-142, 7-163, 8-183, 9-184.

BOWLING: Donald 20-10-38-3; Brown 23-9-39-4; Welch 6-2-22-0; Giles 22-6-29-1; Smith 20.3-5-57-1

Umpires: B Leadbeater and G Sharp.

OTHER SCORES TODAY

Britannic Assurance county championship

Lancashire v Essex

OLD TRAFFORD (final day of four): Essex (20pts) beat Lancashire (4) by 26 runs

ESSEX: First Innings 389 (S G Law 155, R J Rollins 60 not out; G Keedy 4 for 98)

Second Innings forfeited.

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 39 for 0 dec.

Second Innings

M A Atherton c Prichard b Such	56
N T Wood c Rollins b D R Law	18
*J P Crawley c S G Law b Such	35
N H Fairbrother lbw b Grayson	6
G D Lloyd b Such	8
I D Austin c S G Law b Grayson	50
†W K Hegg b Such	55
G Yates c S G Law b Grayson	9
R J Green lbw b Cowan	51
P J Martin c Irani b Grayson	2
G Keedy not out	0
Extras (b 6, lb 8, w 18, nb 4)	36
Total	324

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-107, 3-114, 4-129, 5-168, 6-202, 7-220, 8-317, 9-324.

BOWLING: Ilott 8-1-25-0; Cowan 8-1-22-1; Such 42-15-103-4, D R Law 4-1-17-1; Grayson 38.2-12-143-4.

Umpires: B Dudleston and R A White.

Kent v Gloucestershire

CANTERBURY (final day of four): Kent (23pts) beat Gloucestershire (6pts) by 272 runs

KENT: First Innings 305 (A P Wells 77).

Second Innings 432-4 dec (T R Ward 161 not out, A P Wells 94, M J Walker 51).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 256 (R I Dawson 100, R C Russell 55; B J Phillips 4-44).

Second Innings

D R Hewson c Marsh b Headley	1
M G N Windows lbw b Phillips	84
T H C Hancock c Strang b Headley	8
R I Dawson c Ward b Strang	0
R P Davis c Fulton b Strang	0
D V Lawrence c Marsh b Headley	8
S Young lbw b Eatham	22
*M W Alleyne lbw b Headley	42
†R C Russell b Strang	12
M C J Ball c Marsh b Headley	5
A M Smith not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 18)	26
Total	209

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-40, 3-49, 4-55, 5-80, 6-113, 7-185, 8-193, 9-208.

BOWLING: Headley 23.4-4-82-5; Phillips 12-3-46-1; Strang 28-14-40-3; Eatham 11-5-23-1.

Umpires: V A Holder and A A Jones.

TODAY

FOOTBALL

World Cup
European qualifying group eight
Iceland v Ireland
(at Reykjavik, 3.0) ..

RUGBY UNION

kick-off 7.0 unless stated

Heineken Cup
Pool A
Leinster v Toulouse
(at Donnybrook, 3.0) ..
Pool E
Treviso v Pau ..
European Conference
Pool C
Dax v Farul Constanta ..
Pool D
Nice v Begles ..
Pool F
Toulon v Beziers ..

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

World Cup
European qualifying group four
Scotland v Belarus
(at Pittodrie Stadium, 2.0) ..
Nationwide League
First division
Bury v Tranmere ..

Warwickshire may have edge in compelling NatWest Trophy final

Smith can complete family double

ALAN LEE



Cricket Correspondent

AT MIDDAY on June 24, when Warwickshire were reeling at 25 for six against the amateurs of Norfolk, it seemed that they were to be the first giants slayed in the NatWest Trophy for a decade. Tomorrow at Lord's, they begin the final against Essex as firm favourites to win the competition for the third time in five years.

If Ashley Giles had not been dropped on nought, the successful salvage operation mounted against Norfolk might never have got under way and Warwickshire's season would have been marked only by indignity.

Instead, certainly at limited-overs level, they have not looked back and, in the next eight days, they could secure a one-day double.

Essex, by contrast, have experienced a season that has gone bewilderingly into reverse. In that same June week when Warwickshire had their narrow escape, Essex briefly led both the championship and the Sunday league. They have hardly won a game since, other than in this 60-over competition that suits them so well.

If it surprises no one to see Essex reach this final, however, they, too, have walked a tightrope to get there. Their semi-final win over Glamorgan will be remembered for good and bad reasons. It was a scintillating one-day game, won by a four from the Essex No 11 after a day and a bit of riveting cricket. It also revealed a number of players behaving badly, however, and it also revealed Essex's abiding habit of making a drama out of a cakewalk. But for the bad-light adjournment that prompted the unseemly and notorious shoving match between Mark Ilott and Robert Croft, they would probably have lost.

Ilott, penitent and poorer for his hotheadedness, will have an important role to play with the new ball tomorrow, especially if Essex bowl first in the significant, often decisive period before the autumnal dew has dried. But it is to two more of the semi-final protagonists, Stuart Law and Ronnie Irani, that they will look for inspiration.

Both were retrospectively disciplined, at the request of the England and Wales Cricket Board for their part in the Chelmsford shenanigans, but if Essex are to win tomorrow, they must contribute generously.

Law is the best batsman on either side and his duel with Allan Donald should alone be worth the ticket price. Irani has the talent to turn a game, if only he can retain his composure.

There is another concern with Irani — the torn intercostal muscle he sustained in the semi-final may yet preclude him from bowling. Irani, who has three times flown to Munich for specialist treatment, hopes to bowl in a net today, but even this is problematic.

Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary, said yesterday: "MCC initially told us we could use the ground in the afternoon, but it will now be shut all day. It is unfortunate, but we'll have to find a patch of grass somewhere else."

Essex's other injury worries have involved the captain, Paul Prichard, and Nasser Hussain. Prichard has been struggling with a hamstring injury that forced him to miss the semi-final, and Hussain stood down from the championship match at Old Trafford this week with a recurrence of an elbow complaint. Both are expected to be fit.

Warwickshire, who comfortably beat Essex in both the championship and Sunday league a week ago, will be without the club captain, Tim Munton, who has missed the entire season amid growing concerns for his long-term future, and the experienced Andy Moles. Although Nick Knight, officially vice-captain, is in the side against his former county, Warwickshire will be led by Neil Smith.

LORD'S DETAILS

WARWICKSHIRE (probable): *N M K Smith, N V Knight, D L Hemp, D P Ostler, T L Penney, D R Brown, †K J Piper, G Welch, A F Giles, G C Small, A A Donald

ESSEX (from): *P J Prichard, S G Law, N Hussain, R C Irani, D D J Robinson, A P Grayson, S S Lee, †R J Rollins, A P Cowan, M C Ilott, P M Such, N F Williams.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and P Willey. Third umpire: J H Hampshire

PATH TO FINAL: Essex: First round: Beat Buckinghamshire (Beaconsfield) by 89 runs. Second round: Beat Worcestershire (Chelmsford) by seven wickets. Quarter-final: Beat Nottinghamshire (Trent Bridge) by three wickets. Semi-final: beat Glamorgan (Chelmsford) by one wicket

WARWICKSHIRE: First round: Beat Norfolk (Edgbaston) by 80 runs. Second round: Beat Somerset (Edgbaston) by 11 runs. Quarter-final: Beat Middlesex (Lord's) by 39 runs. Semi-final: beat Sussex (Edgbaston) by 105 runs.

TV: BBC1: 10.15am-11.30am, BBC2: 11.30am-7.45pm. Highlights: 00.20am

Irani promotes the virtues of team ethics

Simon Wilde on a cricketer with the desire to illuminate a Lord's occasion

ROB BODMAN



Irani, the Essex all-rounder, is happiest in what has become his natural environment, the dressing-room

He may not entirely care for the comparison, but Ronnie Irani has something of Ian Wright about him. Not Wright the offensive motor-mouth — though only the other day Irani was reprimanded by Essex for using an expletive after his dismissal in the NatWest Trophy semi-final with Glamorgan — but the Wright who loves his team with the passion of the man in the stand.

Talk to Irani about Essex — his adopted team, for he was born in, and originally played for, Lancashire — and you will be washed with a verbal wave of Team Us. "Winning is far more important than personal achievement," he said last week as he watched his side play Warwickshire, whom they meet in the NatWest Trophy final tomorrow.

"Personal achievement is good but there is nothing better than celebrating a team win in the dressing-room or pub. If you've contributed, it's even sweeter. Beer always tastes sweeter after that." If Irani were not a professional cricketer, it is easy to imagine him among the crowd. He would be there with his mates, shouting himself hoarse as his team scraps out a knife-edged cup-tie.

Irani identifies with spectators to a rare degree, as he graphically demonstrated during the semi-final. Moments after uttering his expletive as he left the field at Chelmsford, he cut off from his self-rebuke to give the throng in front of the pavilion a triumphalist salute.

Having scored a thunderous, heroic half-century — he tore intercostal muscles while bowling, was in a lot of discomfort and pumped full of pain-killers — he was intimating that he had delivered Essex to the threshold of a famous victory. The crowd loved it.

Similarly, he returned to Chelmsford hot-foot from a promising, but no more than promising, first Test appearance in Birmingham last year, swept into the ground in an open-top car driven by his girlfriend and was saluted by the crowd like a conquering hero. Nasser Hussain, a county team-mate, who had done far more towards England's victory with a maiden century, made an altogether more subdued entrance.

It was Irani's passion that more or less got him into the England side. It impressed David Lloyd, the national coach, who knew him from their days together at Lancashire. "You can see in Ronnie's eyes how hungry he is for success," he said.

Passion is not in itself enough, however, as Irani soon discovered. Under the strain of an ungainly bowling action, his back gave way for the second time in two years in Zimbabwe last winter and he was told by the England management that if he wanted to be an international-class player he must remodel his technique. Having left for the tour with a future, he returned home apparently without one.

Irani described it as a "bitterly disappointing" experience, but it was more than that: it was humiliating, and one suspects he hides a good deal of hurt. But his response was typically enthusiastic. He set about overhauling not only his bowling, but also the way he batted.

Such radical action might have backfired badly, but Irani spent hours in the nets before putting what he had learnt into practice. He has three championship centuries to his credit this season and, with the ball, has looked far more dangerous. His semi-final injury, for which he has sought treatment through twice-weekly visits to a specialist in Munich, has been a rare setback.

"I've worked hard on my game," he said. "You can come away from tours like the one I've had and think, 'Is it worth it?' and 'Will I play for England again?' You can fill your mind with all sorts of rubbish. I've performed well this year, helping to win games for Essex. I am a better cricketer than I was when I played for England. I can sleep at night knowing that I've not shied away from work or a pressure situation."

Irani has been a key player in Essex's NatWest Trophy run. He took the man-of-the-match award against Worcestershire and was, of course, at the heart of things in the defeat of Glamorgan, urging

'It is easy to imagine him shouting himself hoarse in the crowd'

on each of his colleagues in turn. Danny Law received a ferocious broadside and responsed by taking 14 runs off an over from Waqar Younis in the gloom.

"I don't know if Danny had played in a game like that before, but when he walked out I thought he just wasn't all there," Irani said. "He'd been thrown into the lion's den and I'd got to get him up for the situation. That's the type of thing I have to do for the team. You can talk about Ronnie Irani and how he's done, but ask one or two players what I get out of them. They might tell you a story."

Irani will probably play tomorrow only as a batsman, but that will be more than enough. "This is what you are here for," he said. "As a kid, you looked at guys like Botham, Richards and Gooch smacking the ball around in a Lord's cup final and you wanted to be that man. You'd pretend you were them. And now I've got another situation where I'm actually on that ground, in a final. I am that man."

SKIING

American brought down by vertigo

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TRACE WORTHINGTON, of the United States, the former leading freestyle skier, will not be attaining the heights of his sport again after being forced to retire because of vertigo.

Worthington, a winner of 43 World Cup events, had been troubled by vertigo for two years and announced the end of a distinguished career in Utah on Thursday.

He was the first skier to collect two gold medals when he won the aerials and combined titles in the 1995 world freestyle championships and he also won both World Cup titles that season.

But, as the 1996 World Cup season began, Worthington suddenly had problems landing from his jumps, which would take him more than 50 feet into the air. Doctors diagnosed vertigo and he missed the second half of the 1996 season before being sidelined again a year ago by a recurrence of the problem.

"This is something physical. It's not just in my head, not just some phobia," Worthington, 27, said after handing in his letter of retirement at the United States Ski and Snowboard Association. "I've trained hard again this summer but I wasn't where I wanted to be and, really, wasn't sure if I could get there. As I've seen the last two seasons, this thing can roll in any time and I didn't want to ride this rollercoaster any longer."

Wayne Hilterbrand, the US freestyle coach, said: "Trace's record speaks for itself. All those World Cup wins, the world championships medals, the clutch performances.

"He's got nothing to prove and if he feels this is the best thing for himself, the coaching staff and I certainly support his decision," Hilterbrand said from Chicago, where he was attending meetings of the US Olympic Committee.

Worthington, who twice skied at the Olympics, said he was looking into the possibility of becoming a television commentator at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, in February. He also has several endorsement opportunities. "I've got no regrets. I gave it my best shot but this vertigo thing wouldn't let me compete at the high level where I was, so . . . it's time to go."

Growing up in Minnesota he was a hockey player and skier, Worthington once explained, "because I couldn't make up my mind which I liked more".

Aerial events had always been his strength. He was the 1986 world junior aerials champion, won 12 national aerials or combined championships and was the World Cup's pre-eminent three-event men's skier of the 1990s. His 43 World Cup victories included ten in aerials and 33 in combined.

Referring to the presentations that the International Ski Federation awards to winners in each World Cup discipline, he said: "I've got seven crystal globes over my bed right now and that's huge. I look at them every night and I'm proud of what I was able to accomplish. But now it's time to move on." ☐ Resorts in Maine, California and Oregon have been selected as the sites of trial events for selecting the snowboard team that will represent the United States in the Winter Olympics in February. Giant slalom and halfpipe, the two disciplines of snowboarding that are being added to the Olympic programme, will be contested at each site.

ALL THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford	5	4	1	0	9	3	13
Notts Forest	5	4	0	1	11	4	12
West Brom	5	3	2	0	7	4	11
Birmingham	4	3	1	0	10	2	10
Swindon	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Portsmouth	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Wolverhampton	5	2	2	1	7	4	8
Sheff Utd	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
Charlton	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Middlesbrough	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
QPR	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Sunderland	5	2	0	3	7	8	6
Bury	5	1	3	1	5	6	6
Man City	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Ipswich	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Stoke	5	1	2	2	2	4	5
Port Vale	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Tranmere	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
Norwich	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Oxford Utd	5	1	0	4	6	9	3
Crewe	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
Stockport	5	0	3	2	5	7	3
Huddersfield	4	0	2	2	2	5	2
Reading	5	0	1	4	2	10	1

(not including last night's results)

Second division

Blackpool v Carlisle ..
Chesterfield v Burnley ..
Watford v Wycombe ..

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	5	4	0	1	7	3	12
Chesterfield	5	3	2	0	8	4	11
Wycombe	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
Preston	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Bournemouth	5	3	1	1	6	3	10
Northampton	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Bristol Rovers	5	3	0	2	6	3	9
Oldham	5	2	2	1	7	6	8
Fulham	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Bristol City	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
Brentford	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
Millwall	4	2	0	2	8	5	6
Blackpool	5	2	0	3	7	11	6
York	5	2	0	3	6	8	6
Gillingham	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
Luton	5	1	2	2	2	4	5
Wrexham	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Wigan	5	1	1	3	6	8	4
Walsall	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Plymouth	5	0	4	1	5	6	4
Southend	5	1	1	3	4	9	4
Carlisle	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Grimsby	5	0	3	2	4	8	3
Burnley	5	0	3	2	0	2	3

(not including last night's results)

Third division

Notts County v Scunthorpe ..
Peterborough v Barnet ..
Scarborough v Hartlepool ..

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	5	4	1	0	7	3	13
Scunthorpe	5	4	0	1	5	3	12
Peterborough	5	3	1	1	11	4	10
Cambridge Utd	5	3	1	1	11	7	10
Barnet	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
Scarborough	5	3	1	1	8	6	10
Leyton Orient	5	3	0	2	7	3	9
Notts County	5	2	2	1	8	5	8
Cardiff	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
Macclesfield	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Torquay	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Lincoln	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Swansea	4	2	0	2	7	9	6
Hartlepool	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Rochdale	5	2	0	3	6	6	6
Mansfield	5	2	0	3	5	5	6
Colchester	5	1	2	2	7	10	5
Rotherham	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Shrewsbury	5	1	1	3	8	10	4
Hull	5	1	1	3	7	11	4
Chester	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Brighton	5	0	2	3	4	7	2
Darlington	4	0	1	3	3	6	1
Doncaster	5	0	0	5	2	15	0

(not including last night's results)

Vauxhall Conference
Cheltenham v Rushden & Diamonds ..
Farnborough v Kettering ..
Hednesford v Woking ..
Leek v Kidderminster ..
Northwich v Dover (1.0) ..
Southport v Slough ..
Stevenage v Morecambe ..
Telford v Gateshead ..
Welling v Stalybridge (2.0) ..

Bell's Scottish League
Second division
Forfar v East Fife ..

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton Albion v Hastings (2.0), Cambridge City v Merthyr; Crawley v Halesowen; Stamford v Atherstone; St Leonards v King's Lynn, Gresley v Dorchester. Midland division: Bedworth v Weston; Stourbridge v Corby; VS Rugby v Hinckley Utd; Wisbech Town v RC Warwick; Shepshed D v Moor Green. Southern division: Bashley v Cirencester Town; Chelmsford v Yate; Clevedon v Dartford; Fleet T v Weston-super-Mare; Waterlooville v Margate, Newport (IoW) v Tonbridge Angels, Cinderford v Bideford, Newport AFC v Trowbridge.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Radcliffe (2.30); Guiseley v Barrow (2.0), Marine v Blyth Spartans (2.0). First division: Worksop v Workington, Buxton v Ashton United

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Bromley; Chesham v Oxford City; Dagenham and Redbridge v Boreham Wood (2.0) Hitchin v Carshalton; Sutton United v Hendon. First division: Greys v Aldershot Town; Worthing v Molesey. Second division: Cheshunt v Northwood, Wivenhoe v Hungerford Third division: Aveley v Epsom and Ewell, Camberley Town v Croydon

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v Barry, Inter Cable-Tel v Welshpool (2.0), Porthmadog v Ebbw Vale (2.0); Rhayader Town v Connah's Quay; Total Net Solutions v Cwmbran (2.0).

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First qualifying round: Fakenham v Holbeach, Biggleswade v Beaconsfield SYCOB; Odd Down v Tonmgton, Melksham v St Blazey; Barrow Town v Meir HA, Erith v Farnham

FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary Round: Warrington v Chadderton

CRICKET

NatWest Trophy
Final
10.30, 60 overs
LORD'S: Warwickshire v Essex

Axa Life League
1.0, 40 overs
DERBY: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Gloucestershire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Durham
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Hampshire
TAUNTON: Somerset v Middlesex
THE OVAL: Surrey v Glamorgan
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Worcestershire

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-off (first day of two) Wardown Park, Luton: Bedfordshire v Devon

RUGBY UNION

kick-off 7.0 unless stated

Heineken Cup
Pool A
Leicester v Milan ..
Pool B
Swansea v Wasps (3.15) ..
Pool C
Brive v Scottish Borders (1.15) ..
Pontypridd v Bath (2.15) ..
Pool D
Bourgoin v Cardiff (3.05) ..
Harlequins v Munster (2.0) ..
Pool E
Caledonia v Llanelli
(at McDiarmid Park, Perth) ..
European Conference
Pool A
Bristol v La Rochelle ..
Ebbw Vale v Agen (6.0) ..
Pool B
Montferrand v Sale (2.0) ..
Newport v Montpellier (2.0) ..
Pool C
London Irish v Stade Français (2.30) ..
Pool E
Colomiers v Richmond (2.0) ..
Grenoble v Bridgend (1.30) ..
Pool F
Gloucester v Padova ..
Pool G
Newcastle v Biarritz (4.0) ..
Pool H
Narbonne v Saracens (5.0) ..
Neath v Castres ..
Allied Dunbar Premiership
Second division
Coventry v Exeter ..
London Scottish v Blackheath ..
Waterloo v Wakefield ..
Jewson National League
First division
Morley v Wharfedale ..
Reading v Otley ..
Worcester v Lydney ..
Second division north
Manchester v Walsall ..
Preston Grasshoppers v Sheffield ..
Sedgley Park v Sandal ..
Second division south
Clifton v Tabard ..
Weston-super-Mare v Esher ..
Welsh League
First division
Aberavon v Abertillery (2.0) ..
Cardiff Inst v Treorchy (2.0) ..
South Wales Police v Blackwood (2.0) ..
SRU League Trophy
Group A
Gala v Hawick ..
Glasgow Hawks v Currie ..
Preston Lodge v Heriots FP ..
Group B
Boroughmuir v Watsonians (1.30) ..
Jed-Forest v Kelso ..
Kilmarnock v Biggar ..
Stirling County v Peebles ..
West of Scotland v Dundee HSFP ..
Club match
Henley v London Welsh ..

RUGBY LEAGUE

kick-off 7.0 unless stated

Stones Premiership
Preliminary round
Halifax v Castleford ..
Salford v Paris Saint-Germain ..
Divisional Premiership
Cumbria pool
Carlisle v Workington ..
Whitehaven v Barrow (3.30) ..
East Yorkshire pool
Hull v York (3.15) ..
Hull K R v Featherstone ..
Lancashire pool
Keighley v Swinton ..
Rochdale v Leigh ..
West Yorkshire pool
Dewsbury v Hunslet ..
Huddersfield v Bramley (3.30) ..
NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First division: Blackbrook v Rochdl (2.30).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: IAAF meeting (at Gateshead)
BOWLS: Ashbourne Scottish mixed pairs championships (at St Vincent Bowls Club, Glasgow).
EQUESTRIAN: Blenheim three-day event
GOLF: Scottish Seniors Open (at Aberdeen).
HOCKEY: Club match: Southgate v Canterbury (at Trent Park, Oakwood, 1.0)
ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Group A: Ayr v Paisley (6.30); Sheffield v Newcastle (6.30); Manchester v Telford (8.0). Group B: Bracknell v Slough (6.0); Cardiff v Basingstoke (5.0); Peterborough v Nottingham (6.15)
MOTOR RACING: British touring car championship (Brands Hatch)
SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Final, second leg: Eastbourne v Poole (3.30) Premier League: Glasgow v Exeter (6.30), Newcastle v Sheffield (6.30). Challenge: Newport v Stoke (2.30). Amateur League riders' championship: Final (at Long Eaton, 3.0) Amateur League: Buxton v Reading and Swindon (3.0)
TENNIS: Scottish championships (at Edinburgh)

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

England's Scottish supporter

John Gorman has become much more than Glenn Hoddle's right-hand man at Lancaster Gate



ANDRE CAMARA

Football association: Gorman, a Scot, was the first selection that Hoddle made when he was appointed coach to the England team, renewing a managerial partnership forged at Swindon Town

OLIVER HOLT



Ten or 15 yards apart, the two men moved forward like synchronised walkers. When they reached the line of yellow plastic markers spread out across the pitch at Bisham Abbey, Glenn Hoddle and John Gorman stopped at exactly the same moment, unaware the other was doing the same. Each had a football tucked under his right arm as he watched. Each knew how the other felt about it. Because he felt the *same*.

When the play switched direction, Hoddle stayed where he was, pondering, shouting out the odd snippet of advice, but Gorman set off, a short, squat, barrel of energy pounding towards the penalty area. A shot came in from the right flank, beat Nigel Martyn and cannoned off the far post and out to safety. "Super Gary Neville," *Gorman sang out, as if it were* the first line of a crowd's chant, before trotting back to the centre circle to convene with Hoddle.

They make a good team, these two, friends leading England forward to their World Cup qualifying tie against Moldova at Wembley next Wednesday amid a mood of renewed optimism about *the state of the national team.* Hoddle takes most of the plaudits, of course, and the brickbats, too, but Gorman is the support he could not do without.

He has been through thick and thin with Hoddle since the day they met, when the England coach was a callow 19-year-old at Tottenham Hotspur. Later, Gorman helped him through the knee *injury that threatened his playing career*, backed him up when he cut his managerial teeth at Swindon Town and stood at his right hand when he was named as successor to Terry Venables.

"We have got a relationship that is more like brothers than anything else," Hoddle said yesterday. "We are very close on most things. It is almost as if he knows what I *am thinking and I know what he is* thinking. It is uncanny. When you have a managerial partnership, you need someone who is on the same wavelength as you and someone you can trust. With John, I have got that and I have got someone who is a first-class coach into the bargain.

"The first time we met, we just got on like a house on fire. You know what it's *like when you get with somebody. We* complement each other with our characters, and his enthusiasm for the game and for the players is there for everyone to see. If you ask any of the players, that is what they really admire in him. As soon as I got the England job he was always going to be my choice. There was no one else."

Gorman, 48, a Scot born in West *Lothian, is good at enthusiastic encouragement*, at making others feel good, making them confident. It is his forte, his gift. It courses through him. It defines his character. It starts with a crushing handshake that always outlasts the grip of his greeter and extends through a purposeful, dogged gait to a steady stream of constructive advice and avuncular *camaraderie. He is one of football's decent* men, honesty personified, an oasis of sincerity in an increasingly cynical game.

Now, even the initial doubts that some seemed to harbour about the worth of his role have disappeared, and Gorman has won the respect he deserves. At Bisham yesterday, David Batty was the latest to say that the atmosphere in the England *squad was the best he had ever known*, and for that he took care to give both Hoddle and Gorman the credit.

Some of that respect stems from the fact that his idea of assisting Hoddle is a world away from the way in which Phil Neal pandered to Graham Taylor during his time in charge. His attitude is a refreshing change from the dogged adherence to the *role of yes-man that Neal adopted.* Gorman has somehow managed to combine the roles of being fiercely loyal to Hoddle and arguing — relentlessly if need be — with him over some of his ideas.

Gorman said: "My main priority is to assist Glenn in whatever way I can. I try to think of *things before he thinks of them* and implant them in his mind. He always discusses everything before a decision is made and it helps to disagree, to throw things out at each other. I tend to dig at him and keep putting my own point of view and he's always willing to listen before he makes up his mind.

"When I first got the job, I was a bit *perturbed because I could see people* looking at me in training with a sort of quizzical look on their faces, thinking 'what has he done to deserve to be Glenn's No 2, working with these big names?'

"There were even some who thought I must be a born-again Christian, but in fact I'm a practising Catholic. The funny thing is that even Glenn is not a born-*again Christian. He's just a Christian and* that has never been a factor. He has become spiritually minded and maybe he would like me to be like that, but he never shoves it down my throat. He knows I'm Christian in the way I think about people and help people, and that is part of my job.

"If I was not doing a good job, then *believe me, he would not have me. People* used to say I was only there because I am his mate, but that's not true, either. I have proved what I can do in the time I have been involved in the England set-up and now that the results are coming the respect is coming with it."

In fact, Gorman is eminently qualified for his role. He has come up the hard way, *shirking nothing, serving a solid manage*rial apprenticeship at football outposts such as Gillingham and Leyton Orient. His playing career was varied, too, starting at Celtic, moving on to Carlisle United and Spurs before a serious knee injury forced him to the United States in 1979 to end his playing days with Tampa Bay Rowdies and Phoenix Inferno.

It was when he was at Orient that he went to visit Hoddle in Monaco as he tried to recover from a knee injury of his own. Hoddle began to think about coaching, too, while Gorman was there, and when he was appointed manager of Swindon, he took Gorman with him as his assistant.

When Hoddle moved on to Chelsea, Gorman took on the Herculean task of trying to keep Swindon in the Premiership, and even though he lost the battle, he earned widespread admiration for the way he stuck steadfastly to his principles of playing neat, passing football.

"Being the manager, the No 1 at Swindon, helped me to find out a great *deal about myself," Gorman said.* "After being my own boss and realising that I needed a good assistant, I know I make a good assistant myself. I feel completely at ease being a No 2, even though my destiny is linked to someone else's.

"Some people, mostly people in Scotland, have asked why I am doing this job and when I am coming back to Scotland, *but they never said that when I was at* Gillingham and Orient. I have lived most of my working life in England and I hate that kind of bigotry. The players have a bit of a laugh sometimes and call me 'Jock' or 'sweaty socks', but the people here have accepted me very well and I have surprised myself sometimes with how passionate I have become. I felt so proud *when we beat Poland in May. I could not* have been any more English. I could not have been prouder if I had been born in the Home Counties."

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Hoddle ponders over captain Gascoigne

By Matt Dickinson

WITH only two matches remaining, and England striving to ensure automatic qualification for the World Cup finals in France next summer as opposed to the perils of a play-off, Glenn Hoddle admits that his choice of captain has suddenly assumed a special significance. With that in mind, quite how Paul Gascoigne's name came to be bandied around Bisham Abbey this week as a contender will remain a mystery.

Yet there was the England coach, sat at a large, wooden table, discussing the merits of Gascoigne as the man to lead the team against Moldova at Wembley on Wednesday. Hoddle, mercifully, did have the sense to play down his chances, but the very fact that *his name was even being* mentioned, Hoddle said, is proof that, at 30, the Rangers playmaker is growing up.

With Gascoigne's name absent from the front pages since allegations of wife-beating, Hoddle has detected in the player a greater awareness of his responsibilites, both in and out of his football boots.

"With Paul, when he had those problems against Georgia, I said it is up to him," Hoddle said. "I never expected him to learn in five days or six months even, but this is a time in his career when he has the opportunity to start maturing. And he is.

"He has had a few ups and downs, many injuries to overcome, and that takes a lot of character. There is no one point when the penny drops, but he is involved in that process. He is settling down and I have seen that maturity around the place, definitely. He is understanding the game more as well. At that age you start reading things and understanding things you didn't at 22 and slowly but surely it comes."

We have heard it all before, of course — the fresh starts, the new resolutions — but for all those optimistic words, the prospect of handing the captain's armband to Gascoigne on a night when England, particularly after Rio Ferdinand's conviction for drink-driving, must be seen to be perfect ambassadors, clearly does not rest easy with Hoddle.

"Captain? If you look down the caps, Paul has the experience," he said. "It possibly could do him good. I did it with Dennis Wise to a certain degree at Chelsea and it was good for him.

"But I have to look at the whole situation. It's a very important World Cup game, but it's also a special occasion. Paul has a chance, but no more than Gareth Southgate, no more than David Seaman, and if Gary Pallister plays, that could be different."

With Teddy Sheringham, his fifth-choice captain, absent as a result of sustaining two fractured ribs, Hoddle's weekend deliberations over the captaincy are unlikely to involve anyone other than Southgate and Seaman.

Seaman, for his greater experience and stature, would be many people's selection, although his position as goalkeeper is likely to count against him. Southgate showed commendable resilience in the way that he coped with the ignominy of his missed penalty in the Euro 96 semi-final against Germany, and he would also be a popular choice.

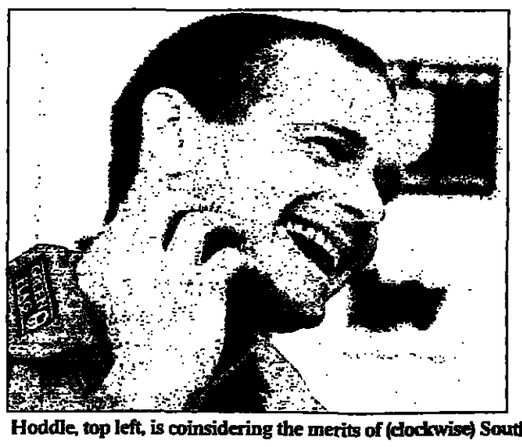
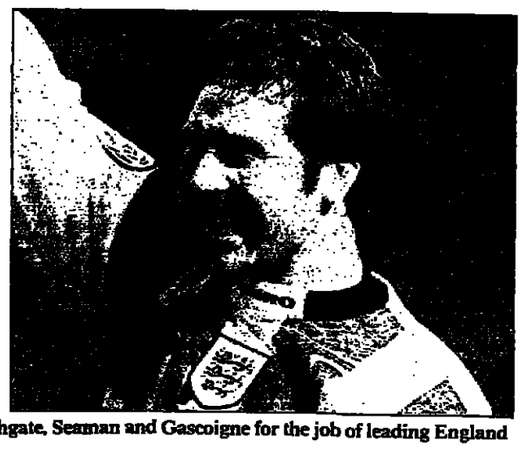
Against Moldova, bottom of group two and without a point in five games, it should not matter too much even if Hoddle himself was to conduct the pre-match formalities, rather than hand that task to Seaman, the Arsenal goalkeeper, who was appointed MBE after his gallant performances in Euro 96, or Southgate, the calm Aston Villa defender.

It is irrelevant whether England beat Moldova by one or seven goals, and while Hoddle, predictably, played *up the opposition's threat*, even with Sheringham's unfortunate absence the fact remains that his team should be superior enough to make the captain's job a formality.

However, do not rule out Gascoigne completely. When he appointed Alan Shearer at the start of his reign, Hoddle stressed that he prefers his captains to be great players who strike fear into opponents, rather than necessarily great leaders of men, citing Maradona as an example.

The days of Gascoigne claiming greatness appear long gone, but England supporters will nonetheless await Hoddle's decision with understandable concern.



Hoddle, top left, is coinsidering the merits of (clockwise) Southgate, Seaman and Gascoigne for the job of leading England

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Why it was right for football to pause and pay its respects

The events of Sunday will remain in my memory just as they will for most people. As soon as I heard the news about Diana, Princess of Wales, I telephoned the club, because I realised there was no way we could go ahead with our match against Newcastle United. Other sporting events went ahead, but ours was the focal point of the afternoon, a game of real passion, and it would have been inappropriate to have played under those circumstances. There has been something of a debate about whether sport should go ahead, but the Royal Family has always had a close association with football, and Diana was prominent in that.

It is a national sport, and clearly there was a need to show respect. There is something about a football match, particularly a high-profile one such as the game at Anfield against Newcastle, that arouses emotions; and it was clear that the only appropriate emotion on Sunday would be sorrow.

The debate about football centered on Scotland's World Cup tie agaist Belarus. There was no way that the game could have been played, and I am sure it was the right decision to postpone it, just as it was right to cancel the football programme in England.

■ Early season matches

It has been a very subdued start to the season, partly because of the manner in which the programme has been set out. Internationals have forced matches to be cancelled, and people have suggested it may have been wiser to have delayed the start of the season to ensure that football enjoyed a smoother start to what is a very important season during a World Cup year.

But just as we are complaining now that there are not enough games, then we will be complaining at the end of the season that there are too many. Clearly, we need to fit games in where we can and that means playing for a week or two and then stopping, just as we were forced to do.

There is another point that people have overlooked. There has been intense criticism of English clubs' performances in Europe, and there is now a huge expectation for us to do better than we have managed in recent years. Had we postponed the start of the season, then Newcastle would have entered their Champions' League game against Zagreb without the benefit of any competitive matches, and I am sure that would have rebounded on them.

It hasn't been an ideal start to the season by any means, especially for Liverpool, because we needed to bed our new players in, but then you can't use that as an excuse. The fact is there is a World Cup and that is the most important thing. I think every professional in England must accept that the schedule this season should be arranged around it.

■ Regaining my England place

I have a free weekend this weekend for the first time in my memory during the football season, because I was not selected for the England squad. I have to confess it is a strange feeling, especially to be at home reading about the England players in the training camp at Bisham Abbey.

It is only right that you should be in the squad because you are playing well. It is a truth that all footballers must accept, no matter what their status, and that applies to me just as anybody else.

But it still hurts not to be involved in your country's preparations. I know I have to get back in the squad because that is the most important thing to me, to represent my country, but I also know I can't feel sorry for myself or even begin to appear as though I am moaning about my situation.

It may sound fairly basic, but my response is not that I need to prove myself or prove anybody wrong. I need to be playing well for Liverpool if I am to get back into the England squad, and of course that is what the club and our supporters demand anyway.

It has not been the easiest of starts to the season for me, but I am tuned in totally to my one aim of playing to the best of my ability and I won't let anything affect that. If I play well for Liverpool then everything else will follow and I must concentrate purely on that.

I have spoken to quite a few of the England players this week and, because I have been involved frequently before, I can sit at home and picture exactly what they might be doing at any time. My ambition now is to ensure that I don't sit at home next time the squad is announced.

■ Fowler and Owen

There is some good news at Liverpool this week. Robbie Fowler is on the way back to full fitness, and believe me we have missed him. Michael Owen is a wonderful young player and he has an incredibly bright future. But whereas he has great promise, Robbie is the finished article, as his goal record shows.

Some people have suggested that Fowler may not get back into the side because Michael is playing so well. I can't go along with that, not least because Robbie has scored a stack of goals in each of his first three full seasons.

Michael Owen is not Robbie. He is his own player and he will undoubtedly be a great player. But I am sure he will say himself that he accepts he needs to be shielded at times, whereas Robbie has vast Premiership experience.

The good news for this club is that we now have three strikers who we know will score goals. If we are to challenge for the championship then we need all three of them fit and playing well, and that is why the news about Robbie probably being available for next weekend's matches is timely.

What can you say about him? He is such a phenomenon in the penalty area and I am certain if he is fit he will prove just as deadly this season as he has done in his career. I don't know what will happen with Michael but I know that he will want to play. I am sure he will get plenty of opportunity.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

McMANAMAN'S WORLD



FOOTBALL: SCOTLAND GO INTO WORLD CUP QUALIFYING TIE IN SOMBRE MOOD AS IRELAND BEGIN DECISIVE WEEK ON THE ROAD

Scots must get back into old routine

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

TO PLAY for one's country is supposed to be a culmination, but the Scotland side that takes the field tomorrow for the World Cup qualifying match against Belarus at Pittodrie may feel as if it is participating in an afterthought. The game goes ahead on the same weekend as the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and also follows the furore over the delays in rescheduling a fixture that was originally intended to take place this afternoon.

Sport, however, is always capable of barging its way back into the public's thoughts and those footballers will rapidly return to an unwelcome prominence if they should fail to defeat Belarus. Although Scotland have been unable to approach the match in their usual methodical manner, they are expected to perform with efficiency.

In exceptional circumstances, the team must find its way back into an old routine. "We cannot afford to lose if we are to have any aspirations at all of reaching the World Cup finals," Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, said. He was understating the case because, in truth, his side need to win both of their last two matches in group four, against Belarus and Latvia at home.

Such results would, at the very least, take them into the play-offs open to runners-up in the groups. A greater prize, though, could be within Scotland's grasp. Should Austria and Sweden draw in Vienna this evening, two victories for Brown's team will secure them an automatic place at the World Cup finals. In disconcerting circumstances, the Scotland players face one of the most important weekends of their careers.

GROUP FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	8	5	2	1	9	2	17
Austria	7	5	1	1	11	4	16
Sweden	7	5	0	2	14	8	15
Latvia	7	2	1	4	9	11	7
Belarus	7	1	1	5	4	12	4
Estonia	8	1	1	6	4	14	4

RESULTS: Sweden 5 Belarus 1; Austria 0 Scotland 0; Belarus 1 Estonia 0, Latvia 1 Sweden 2; Latvia 0 Scotland 2; Estonia 1 Belarus 0; Belarus 1 Latvia 1; Sweden 0 Austria 1; Austria 2 Latvia 1; Scotland 1 Sweden 0; Estonia 0, Scotland 0 (in Monaco), Scotland 2 Estonia 0; Scotland 2 Austria 0; Latvia 2 Belarus 0; Sweden 2 Scotland 1; Austria 2 Estonia 0; Estonia 1 Latvia 3; Belarus 9 Scotland 1; Latvia 1 Austria 3; Estonia 2 Sweden 3; Estonia 0 Austria 8; Belarus 1 Sweden 2

MATCHES TO COME: Sept 6: Austria v Sweden; Latvia v Estonia; Scotland v Belarus. Sept 10: Belarus v Austria; Sweden v Latvia. Oct 11: Austria v Belarus; Sweden v Estonia; Scotland v Latvia.

Brown is particularly conscious of the pitfalls. There has hardly been any attention to spare for the opposition, but the manager has the disquieting feeling that Belarus's run of ill-fortune cannot be expected to last much longer. "They present a tricky obstacle," Brown said, "and most of their squad plays at a good level with the big clubs in Moscow."

Last month, Belarus even led 1-0 against Sweden, in Minsk, but conceded two goals in the closing stages of the game. There are humdrum anxieties for the manager too, who seems intent on picking, in midfield, Gary McAllister, whose knee injury has prevented him from appearing for Coventry City since August 11, and John Collins, who has recently been confined to AS Monaco's substitutes' bench.

Brown lacks the replacements who would permit him to omit such experienced men from the side and his squad, in any case, has been subject to the usual depletions. Colin Hendry, the centre half, has accepted medical opinion that it would be unwise to take part after his concussion in Blackburn Rovers' match with Crystal Palace last weekend.

Another established member of the side, Darren Jackson, of Celtic, underwent brain surgery on Tuesday and will not play again for some months.

Whenever he is embattled, Brown always finds comfort in the belief that he can tap into the form some players are enjoying at club level. As such, Kevin Gallacher, of Blackburn, is treasured.

The forward already has five goals to his name this season. "I go out believing that I will score in every game at the moment," Gallacher said. "Everything I touch seems to be going into the net." He will be partnered in attack by Gordon Durie, of Rangers, as Brown seeks the pace and dynamism that will eventually wear down the resistance of a stolid Belarus side.

Attrition may well be required, but Brown does like to ponder the effect that an early goal might have. "If that happened," he said, "Belarus heads could go down because of their recent results." Jim Leighton, the Scotland goalkeeper, might appreciate a quiet afternoon in which to relish his triumph. At 39, the Aberdeen player has re-established himself as first-choice for the position a status he has not enjoyed since 1990. Brown confirmed that Leighton has been preferred to Andy Goram, of Rangers.



Leighton has re-established himself as Scotland's first-choice goalkeeper with his selection against Belarus

Tough baptism awaits Kilbane

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN REYKJAVIK

GROUP EIGHT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	7	7	0	0	24	2	21
Macedonia	8	4	1	3	21	14	13
Ireland	7	3	2	2	15	4	11
Lithuania	7	3	2	2	6	5	11
Iceland	7	1	3	3	5	8	6
Liechtenstein	8	0	0	8	2	40	0

RESULTS: Macedonia 3 Liechtenstein 0; Iceland 1 Macedonia 1; Liechtenstein 0 Ireland 5, Romania 3 Lithuania 0; Lithuania 2 Iceland 0, Iceland 0 Romania 4; Ireland 3 Macedonia 0; Lithuania 2 Liechtenstein 1; Liechtenstein 1 Macedonia 11, Ireland 0 Iceland 0; Macedonia 0 Romania 3; Romania 8 Liechtenstein 0; Macedonia 3 Ireland 2; Lithuania 0 Romania 1; Romania 1 Ireland 0; Liechtenstein 0 Lithuania 2; Ireland 5 Liechtenstein 0; Macedonia 1 Iceland 0; Iceland 0 Lithuania 0; Ireland 0 Lithuania 0; Liechtenstein 0 Iceland 4; Romania 4 Macedonia 2

MATCHES TO COME: Sept 6: Iceland v Ireland; Liechtenstein v Romania, Lithuania v Macedonia. Sept 10: Romania v Iceland; Lithuania v Ireland Oct 11: Iceland v Liechtenstein; Ireland v Romania; Macedonia v Lithuania.

IT WAS not the most pleasant phone call that Kevin Kilbane had received. Ian Evans, manager of the Ireland Under-21 team, had rung to tell him that he would not be required for the forthcoming matches against Iceland and Lithuania in the European championship qualifying series. Kilbane, feeling that he had done well in his three appearances, was dismayed.

Four days later, he was casually flicking through the Teletext pages when his heart leapt, for he saw that he had been included in the senior squad for the World Cup qualifying matches against the same countries. "I couldn't believe it," he said. "It still hasn't sunk in yet." Evans, mischievously, had forgotten to mention it.

This afternoon, Kilbane's rise to prominence is likely to continue in the group eight match against Iceland here, for with Keith O'Neill absent because of injury and Mark Kennedy unable to command a regular first-team place with Liverpool, he seems certain to fill the role of left-wing supplier.

Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, gave him a second-half run-out in Eoin Hand's testimonial match in Dublin on Tuesday and was suitably impressed. "Kevin is strong, direct and has that ability to get to the byline and whip in crosses," he said. "He's an exciting prospect."

Kilbane, 20, born in Preston of Irish parents, moved to West Bromwich Albion from Preston North End for £1.25 million during the summer. He scored on his debut in the Nationwide League first division and has helped West Bromwich to an unbeaten run of seven matches.

Whether it is right to introduce him to international football at such a delicate juncture is a moot point. Ireland have to defeat Iceland, a frequently awkward, stubborn side, to strengthen their increasingly fragile claims for a place in the finals in France next year.

If they win, they can travel on to Lithuania, for another qualifying tie on Wednesday, in good heart. They will have edged closer to the group runners-up position and the play-off prize that goes with it. If they draw or lose, they might as well turn out the northern lights, give Vilnius a miss and head straight back to the Emerald Isle.

IRELAND (probable: 4-5-1): S Given (Newcastle United) — D Irwin (Manchester United), K Cunningham (Wimbledon), T Harte (Leeds United), S Staunton (Aston Villa) — G Kelly (Leeds United), A McLoughlin (Portsmouth), R Keane (Manchester United), A Townsend (Middlesbrough), K Kilbane (West Bromwich Albion) — D Connolly (Feyenoord).

Arsenal try Howard's way for new route to success



AS Arsène Wenger shapes the future at Arsenal, with his men clearly struggling to contain their macho tendencies, Terry Howard has been charged with taking Highbury's distaff element into the new millennium. Howard is the new coach of Arsenal Ladies, having succeeded Vic Akers, and is under no illusion of the task facing him.

During Akers's six-year reign, Arsenal won three league championships, to put him at the top of the all-time managerial greats of women's football. Howard's previous experience includes steering Islington into the finals of the English Schools' Trophy in 1995, from which they emerged victorious, and in 1997. He will receive assistance from Clare Wheatley, the former England left back, who has been appointed ladies' development officer, and may still call on his illustrious predecessor, who has moved further up the Highbury hierarchy, for advice if needed.

On the move

Stan Collymore, the England and Aston Villa striker, thought that his troubles were firmly behind him once he had completed his £7 million move from Liverpool during the summer. When "chrome dome" came home to Cannock, a short hop from Villa's Bodymoor Heath training ground, doom and gloom appeared but a thing of the past. However, no sooner had Collymore returned to his roots than a group of anorak-type Villa fans began to lurk persistently outside his house. Collymore is rarely at ease in the public or private glare and is therefore seeking a 'new abode. Up-market Solihull is widely tipped as the place about to be graced by his presence.

Worlds apart

West Bromwich Albion officials were understandably keen to maintain segregation at the recent get-together with Wolverhampton Wanderers, their friendly neighbours in the Black Country. "We could fill The Hawthorns to capacity by letting supporters buy any tickets they wanted." Dr John Evans, the West Brom secretary, said, "but if we ended up with hooliganism and violence as the fans mixed, the club would suffer." Tickets for entry to the home stand were strictly controlled, with allegiance to the Throstles having to be undeniably proved. Even tattoos — presumably "I luv Ray Harford" — were accepted.

Worn with pride

It was hard to miss Estelle Bergkamp, the young daughter of Dennis, as she waited outside Highbury for her famous father, the Holland and Arsenal striker, after the 0-0 draw against Tottenham Hotspur last weekend. She was the little one wearing the No 10 shirt with "Dad" printed on the back.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: David Unsworth is the first West Ham United player whose surname begins with the letter "U". The club now needs only to sign an Eric Xavier and a Jimmy Zimmerman to complete an alphabetical full set.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 5 Anaheim 4 (11 innings), New York Yankees 2 Baltimore 5; Toronto 2 Texas 6, Kansas City 7 Oakland 6 (12 innings); Minnesota 6 Seattle 9

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 5 Pittsburgh 2, Montreal 4 Philadelphia 6; San Diego 7 Atlanta 8 (11 innings); San Francisco 2 Houston 14. Postponed: Colorado v St Louis.

CRICKET

NAIROBI: Tour match (first day of three): New Zealand 280-6 dec (C M Spearman 103); Kenya 26-1

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (second day of three): Worcester: Worcestershire 242 (G Chapple 6-46) and 161 (Abdul Haleez 58); Lancashire 160-4 dec (J E R Gallian 55) and 7-0; Northampton: Surrey 231 (A J Tudor 77; G P Swann 3-50) and 32-1; Northamptonshire 180-7 dec (G P Swann 65; A J Tudor 5-73); Bristol: Gloucestershire 230-4 (N J Trainer 110, M J Church 67 not out) v Kent Colchester: Somerset 130 (J C Powell 4-46) and 140 (C M Wells 56 not out, D M Cousins 4-17); Essex 252 (A R Butcher 51 not out; B M Trott 6-40) and 22-1 Essex won by nine wickets.

FOOTBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York/New Jersey 3 Los Angeles 1

Thursday's late results

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Wembley 1 Leatherhead 1. Second division: Banstead 0 Witham 0, Leighton 1 Metropolitan Police 3 Third division: Hemel Hempstead 3 Kingsbury 2

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston Villa 2 Nottingham Forest 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers 0 Charlton Athletic 3. Postponed: Luton Town v Swindon Town

FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round:. Corinthian 1 Tonbridge 3.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Le Havre 1 Toulouse 1; Marseilles 1 Lyons 0

ITALIAN CUP: Second round, first leg: Brescello 1 Juventus 1

EGYPT: Under-17 world chapionship: Group A: Egypt 3 Thailand 2 (at Cairo).

GOLF

MOSCOW: Russian Open: Leading second-round (GB and Ire unless stated): 137: J Berendt (Arg) 70, 67. 138: N van Hootegem (Bel) 71, 67. 139: C Hanning (US) 71, 68, H Nystrom (Swe) 71, 68. 140: G Marks 73, 67, N Joakimides (Fri) 70, 70. 141: J M Kuta (Fr) 71, 70, S Kjeldsen (Den) 69, 72, M Reale (It) 73, 68, G Owen 70, 71; R Budde (Den) 67, 74; M Pitz (Fin) 72, 69; R Wragg 68, 76, C Rodiles (Sp) 69, 72. 142: M Litton 71, 71, W Bennett 73, 69, S Brown 68, 74; D Dabson (Fr) 73, 69; S Leaney (Aus) 72, 70

GYMNASTICS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland: World championships: Team finals: Men: 1, China (Xu Huang, Li Xiaopeng, Yufu Lu, Jian Shen, Jinjing Zhang, Junfeng Xiao)224.855pts. 2, Belarus 221.586; 3, Russia 220.682; 4, Japan 220.643, 5, United States 219.806; 6, Germany 217.934 Women: 1, Romania (C Ungureanu, C Presecan, A Marinescu, G Gogean, S Amanar, M Tuguriani) 159.720pts; 2, Russia 153.197; 3, China 152.001, 4, Ukraine 150.803; 5, France 148.369, 6, United States 147.897.

HOCKEY

SEOUL: Women's Junior World Cup: Group A: Germany 2 Australia 3. Group B: South Korea 10 Ukraine 0; South Africa 6 United States 0, Holland 1 Argentina 1

ROWING

AIGUEBELETTE, France: World championships: Semi-finals: Lightweight coxless pairs (first three into final): Men: First race: 1, N Maxwell and A O'Connor (Ire) 6mn 44.65sec; 2, J Kolat-Jensen and J O Nielsen (Den) 6:45.24, 3, L Johansson and T Elgh (Swe) 6:45.84. Second race: 1, M Binder and B Schmidt (Switz) 6:41.47, 2, S Bel and H-P Dall'Acqua (Fr) 6:44.50, 3, F Weller and G Kovacs (Hun) 6:45.16 Lightweight double sculls (first three into final): Men: First race: 1, L Peturan and M. Cnspi (It) 6.20.34; 2, Michael Gier et Markus Gier (Switz) 6:21.10; 3, J C Saez and J M de Marco (Sp) 6:23.03. Second race: 1, T Kucharski and R Sysz (Pol) 6:18.75; 2, I Eule and B Ruhling (Ger) 6:20.44, 3, A Edwards and G Lynagh (Aus) 6:22.64. Women: First race: 1, A Tamas and C Macoviciuc (Rom) 7:05.13; 2, M Darvill and A Brand (Ger) 7:07.97, 3, T Bell and W Post (US) 7:08.79 Second race: 1, R Stan and T Duncan (Can) 7:05.14; 2, A Hellaberg and L Andersson (Den); 7:05.24; 3, C Fernandez and M Lamolla (Fri) 7:09.31; 4, S Birch and T Langlands (GB) 7:12.90 Quadruple sculls (first three into final) Men: First race: 1, Italy 5:44.13, 2, Ukraine 5.45.94; 3, Switzerland 5:46.51 Second race: 1, Germany 5:45.26, 2, France 5:45.84; 3, Austria 5:46.60

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Cup details

Pool A: Leicester, Leinster, Milan. Toulouse Pool B: Glasgow, Swansea, Ulster, Wasps Pool C: Bath, Brive, Pontypridd, Scottish Borders Pool D: Bourgoin, Cardiff, Harlequins, Munster Pool E: Caledonia Reds, Llanelli, Pau, Treviso

Five pool winners go forward to the quarter-finals, along with the three play-off winners. They come from the five pool runners-up and the best-ranked team in third place from all five pools. Those six teams will be seeded on the following criteria, pool points, pool points difference, most tries and best disciplinary record

FIXTURES: Round one: Sept 6: Leinster v Toulouse (referee, A Spreadbury), Treviso v Pau (I Ramage) Sept 7: Leicester v Milan (D Bevan), Swansea v Wasps (J Fleming), Brive v Scottish Borders (S Lander), Pontypridd v Bath (D McHugh), Harlequins v Munster (P Thomas), Bourgoin v Cardiff (C Muir), Caledonia Reds v Llanelli (R McDowell) Sept 8: Ulster v Glasgow (C Thomas)

Round two: Sept 12: Leinster v Leicester (J Dume) Sept 13: Milan v Toulouse (R G Davies), Swansea v Ulster (K McCartney), Cardiff v Munster (B Campsall), Harlequins v Bourgoin (N Whitehouse), Pau v Llanelli (L Mayne) Sept 14: Glasgow v Wasps (A Lewis), Scottish Borders v Bath (N Williams), Brive v Pontypridd (E Murray), Caledonia Reds v Treviso (D Gillet).

Round three: Sept 20: Toulouse v Leicester (K McCartney), Milan v Leinster (N Lasagai), Scottish Borders v Pontypridd (C White), Bath v Brive (J Fleming), Munster v Bourgoin (H F Lewis), Llanelli v Treviso (E Murray), Pau v Caledonia Reds (G Simmonds). Sept 21: Wasps v Ulster (C Duhau), Glasgow v Swansea (E Morrison), Cardiff v Harlequins (D Mene)

Round four: Sept 27: Toulouse v Milan (C Muir), Leicester v Leinster (D Gillet), Ulster v Swansea (G Hughes), Bath v Scottish Borders (D R Davies), Pontypridd v Brive (G Black), Munster v Cardiff (A Spreadbury), Bourgoin v Harlequins (D Bevan), Treviso v Caledonia Reds (P Thomas) Sept 28: Wasps v Glasgow (D McHugh), Llanelli v Pau (B Stirling).

Round five: Oct 3: Ulster v Wasps (N Lasaga) Oct 4: Leicester v Toulouse (J Fleming), Leinster v Milan (E Morrison), Swansea v Glasgow (G Black), Pontypridd v Scottish Borders (G Duhau), Bourgoin v Munster (C White), Harlequins v Cardiff (E Murray), Treviso v Llanelli (A Lewis) Oct 5: Brive v Bath (K McCartney), Caledonia Reds v Pau (C Thomas)

Round six: Oct 11: Toulouse v Leinster (S Lander), Bath v Pontypridd (J Dume), Cardiff v Bourgoin (L Mayne), Llanelli v Caledonia Reds (J Pearson), Pau v Treviso (D McHugh) Oct 12: Milan v Leicester (D Mene), Wasps v Swansea (B Smith), Glasgow v Ulster (G Simmonds), Scottish Borders v Brive (B Campsall), Munster v Harlequins (N Whitehouse).

Knockout stages: Play-offs: Nov 1-2 Quarter-finals: Nov 8-9 (£15,000 prize-money to each participant). Semi-finals: December 20-21 (£40,000 each). Final: January 31 (£60,000 each)

SPEEDWAY

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Final: First leg: Poole 43, Eastbourne 49

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 58 Belle Vue.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 50 Oxford 40.

TENNIS

FLUSHING MEADOWS: US Open: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: P Rafter (Aus) bt M Larsson (Swe) 7-6, 6-4, 6-2; M Chang (US) bt M Rios (Chile) 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3 Doubles: Semi-finals: J Bjorkman and N Kulti (Swe) bt W Black (Zim) and J Grabb (US) 7-5, 7-6 Women: Doubles: Semi-final: L Davenport (US) and J Novotna (Cz) bt M Hingis (Switz) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) 6-4, 6-3 Mixed doubles: Final: M Bollegraf (Holl) and R Leach (US) bt M Paz (Arg) and P Albano (Arg) 3-6, 7-5, 7-6. Men's over-35 doubles (round robin): Blue group: J Kroek (US) and J Lloyd (GB) bt B Gilbert and T Mayotte (US) 6-7, 6-1, 7-6. Over-45 doubles (round robin): Blue group: T Gullikson (US) and D Stockton (US) bt K Rosewall (Aus) and F Stolle (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; M Riessen (US) and S Stewart (US) bt J Fillol (Chile) and M Orantes (Sp) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6 Red group: M Riessen and S Stewart (US) bt J Fillol (Chile) and M Orantes (Sp) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6. Green group: B Lutz and S Smith (US) bt O Davidson (Aus) and C Drysdale (SA) 1-6, 7-5, 7-6. Yellow group: R Emerson (Aus) and T Gorman (US) bt B Gottfried and S Mayer (US) 6-4, 6-4. Women's doubles masters (round robin): Blue group: J Russell and P Teeguarden (US) bt T Holladay (US) and O Morozova (Russ) 3-6, 6-2, 7-6; A Hobbs (GB) and I Kloss (SA) bt M Jausovec (Slovenia) and V Wade (GB) 6-2, 6-1. Red group: W Overton and A Smith (US) bt S Walsh (US) and B Stove (Holl) 6-0, 6-1; J Dune (GB) and F Durr (Fr) bt R Casals and K Jordan (US) 6-3, 6-3. Boys' doubles: Quarter-finals: Selected result: F Gonzalez (Chile) and N Massu (Chile) bt I Bates (GB) and T Messmer (Ger) 7-5, 4-6, 6-2

EDINBURGH: Men's Scottish championships: First round: A Lopez-Moron (Sp) bt F Cabello (Sp) 6-4 6-7 6-3. Second round: D Pescanu (Rom) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 7-5, 7-6; M Puerta (Arg) bt M Maclagan (GB) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; J Portani (Fr) bt T Guardiola (Fr) 6-4, 5-7, 6-3; P Ilmaz (Arg) bt C Auffray (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; G Doyle (Aus) bt R Gilbert (Fr) 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, L Jonsson (Swe) bt O Stenoytchev (Bul) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; J Diaz (Sp) bt A Cekarava (Sp) 6-2, 6-2; A Gaudenzi (It) bt A Lopez-Mordn (Sp) 6-2, 7-5

WINDSURFING

BRIGHTON: Holsten Pils PWA World Cup: Overall leaders: 1, N Baker; 2, F Maynard; 3, P Belbeoc'h

Paganin told to decide on transfer

LIVERPOOL have issued an ultimatum to Massimo Paganin, the Internazionale defender, over his proposed £3.5 million transfer to Anfield. A representative of the club travelled to Italy yesterday for talks with the centre half designed to force him to make a decision (David Maddock writes).

Paganin has dragged his heels over the transfer and Liverpool have now decided that they can wait no longer for him to make up his mind. The representative will tell the player that either he opens formal contract talks or the deal will be scrapped.

The problem has centred on the player's wage demands. It is understood that he has asked for a salary and signing-on fee in excess of £25,000 per week, and Liverpool are not prepared to meet such a figure for a defender. All attempts to persuade him to negotiate have so far failed. Newcastle United are also interested in Paganin, 27, but they, too, have been discouraged by his demands.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, is eager to sign a defender and he has indicated that he is prepared to look elsewhere. He needs a decision because he must also decide the future of Jason McAteer, his Ireland international wing back.



MOTOR RACING 42
Schumacher aims to ride over wave of emotion

SPORT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1997

CRICKET 45
Irani holds key to turn Lord's final Essex's way



Briton confident of sustaining progress in meeting of unseeded semi-finalists

Rusedski to make right impression

FROM DAVID POWELL IN NEW YORK

ONE is a former doubles world champion who has finally gained an identity in singles. The other is Canadian-born with a British make-over. They meet here at *Flushing Meadows* today, each seeking to become only the second unseeded men's singles finalist at the US Open for 26 years. Will it be Jonas Bjorkman or Greg Rusedski?

Bjorkman can slip into Rory Bremner mode at the drop of a set, so easily do impressions of the tennis stars come to him. "He can do everyone, he's brilliant," Rusedski said. But, when the time comes to be serious, it is the Andre Agassi in Bjorkman that Rusedski wishes not to surface.

"We used to look at Andre as the best returner of serve, but Jonas is up in that class now," Rusedski said. According to John McEnroe, the Swede's backhand return is "a thing of absolute beauty".

Sometimes on court, though, Bjorkman gives his impression of a rookie professional. "I have seen him falter sometimes when he should win," Brian Teacher, Rusedski's coach, said. Such as at Wimbledon last year, when he lost to Luke Milligan, or this year, when he lost to another Briton, Chris Wilkinson.



Bjorkman: fine backhand

However, for the past fortnight, Bjorkman has posed problems for everyone who has fallen into his path in the draw. They included Gustavo Kuerten, the No 9 seed from Brazil, who won the French Open in June, knocking the Swede out along the way. Kuerten, like Bjorkman now, was unseeded in Paris. What kind of omen is this?

Rusedski had better skip over that, and instead listen to Scott Draper, Bjorkman's fourth-round victim and the only man to take a set from him here. "He can take the ball early, come to the net, and he is very athletic," Draper said. "But, if you keep him out there long enough, he is vulnerable."

No more vulnerable, though, than Rusedski is to daily asides here that he is not truly British. If the accent comes out wrong, the words come out right. Whether or not he becomes the first British player since Fred Perry in 1936 to win a grand-slam singles title, one thing is certain: Bournemouth, here he comes.

"Whatever happens, I have made a commitment to play in Bournemouth next week," Rusedski said. "We do not have many tournaments at home." *At home*, note. "I do not want to let down the public who bought tickets and come. It is very important to support your home tournaments." Take that, Tim Henman, whose preference is for Tashkent.

"I have a British passport, a British girlfriend and I have lived in Britain for seven years," Rusedski said to American journalists unconvinced by the GB after his name. It was no different, for so long, in Britain. Teacher tells of how, at the Nottingham tournament three months ago, Rusedski walked into the players' lounge to find, on the bulletin board, "50 to 100 articles on Tim and nothing about Greg". Teacher said that it made his player depressed.

"That was a tough day for him," Teacher added. "He thought: 'I am not playing bad tennis, I should get some publicity.' But he ended up winning the tournament, so he got some. He feels a part of Great Britain, he really does.

"I receive letters of encouragement all the time," Rusedski said. They [British tennis supporters] treat Tim and I, I think, as equals." Only now, Rusedski is first among equals. It is he, not Henman, who will be the first British man for 20 years to take his racket to a grand-slam singles semi-final.

"Greg is polite and pleasant," Teacher said. "It is a friendly rivalry he has with Tim. If he sees Tim do well, he thinks: 'Gee, if I can work a little bit harder, I will get what Tim is getting.'"

Since his quarter-final, Rusedski has had what he described as "a raspiness" in his throat, but he has been assured by a doctor that it is not an infection. His confidence, as the only player not to have dropped a set, remains high.

His preference would have been to be the first semi-final on, given that the final is tomorrow and the extra few hours' rest could make a difference. Despite Teacher's concern that his player may find it emotionally wearing, Rusedski said that he intended to watch television coverage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Today is Rusedski's 24th birthday and there are no prizes for guessing the present he wants. It will not come gift-wrapped, though, for Bjorkman is ranked No 17 in the world, three places higher than Rusedski. He is a former doubles world champion, has won ten Davis Cup doubles rubbers and has reached the doubles final here. However, in 17 grand-slam singles events, this is the first time that he has reached the semi-finals.

In the first semi-final, Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, from the United States, plays Patrick Rafter, the No 13 seed, from Australia. So, if Rusedski progresses, there is the prospect of playing an Australian in the final. Who in Britain would not be shouting for Rusedski then?



Rusedski has the world at his feet as he takes time out before his US Open semi-final against Bjorkman at Flushing Meadows today. Photograph: Roger Parker

Chang on hard road to second title

SHOULD Michael Chang win his second grand-slam men's singles title tomorrow, eight years after taking his first at the age of 17, he will have done it the hard way (David Powell writes). Chang, the No 2 seed, was taken to five sets for the second successive round at Flushing Meadows before beating Marcelo Rios, the tenth seed, in their quarter-final on Thursday night.

Chang, having rescued victory from near defeat against Cedric Pioline, of France, in the fourth round, was beginning to look like a potential comeback victim when Rios recovered from two sets down. However, Chang, from the United States, finally repelled his challenger 7-5, 6-2, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3.

When the tournament began, Chang was priced as 8-1 second favourite behind Pete Sampras, whose odds of 5-2 on to win a third successive title did not impress Petr Korda, of the Czech Republic, who eliminated him in the fourth round. Korda was trailing Jonas Bjorkman, from Sweden, in their quarter-final when he withdrew, ill.

A semi-final between Bjorkman and Greg Rusedski, of Britain, means that Chang would face an unseeded opponent in the final tomorrow if he can overcome Patrick Rafter, of Australia, today. In 1989, Chang became the youngest men's French Open and grand-slam champion at 17 years and three months. This is his thirtieth grand-slam tournament since. The pursuit of a second title has been a long, hard road.

Against Pioline, Chang was two sets to one and 5-2 down, but he won 11 of the last 12 games. There was a controversial moment in the match against Rios when the Chilean took a 5-2 lead in the third set, was pegged back to 5-4, but then earned a set point on the American's service.

Chang's service was clearly out but he was awarded the point against an opponent who, in their four previous matches, had not won a set. Rios dropped his racket to the floor in disgust at the call but regained his composure to win the second set point.

Though seeded well above Rafter, Chang lost to him in the quarter-finals of the Hamlet Cup in New York three days before the US Open.

Anderlecht admit they paid referee

BY MATT DICKINSON

ANDERLECHT, the Belgian football club, yesterday admitted paying money to the referee of their 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest.

Brian Clough, then Forest manager, has harboured suspicions about his team's defeat. They took a 2-0 lead to Belgium, but lost 3-0 in highly controversial circumstances that included a debated penalty and a disallowed goal.

Uefa, the European governing body, has been investigating allegations concerning the tie and yesterday Roger van den Stock, the Anderlecht president, was reported to have admitted that his predecessor and father, Constant, made a payment of around £16,000 to Guruceta Muro, the Spanish referee, the day after the game.

Van den Stock, however, claimed that the payment was a loan. "In my father's eyes, this was not bribery, it was something to help someone," he said. Muro has since died in a car crash.

Only recently, Clough said: "The referee prevented us getting to the final of a European competition. That is another trophy I could have won. It was a very long time ago, now. But I was suspicious at the time that something was not quite right, and the referee was not doing us any favours. We did not play well as I recall, but the penalty he gave against [Kenny] Swain was a travesty, and I still have no idea to this day why [Paul] Hart's goal was disallowed."

Hart said: "I can honestly say there was absolutely nothing wrong with that goal. I headed it down, and it went in with no one offside, and I wasn't climbing over anyone or touching anyone. I said that straight after the game, and having heard these allegations against the referee, I am more convinced it should have counted."

Athens plays loyalty card in attempt to win Olympic race

ROB HUGHES in Lausanne



If style could ever win the right to host the Olympic Games over content and facilities, we would be reliving the error the International Olympic Committee (IOC) made in transporting the Olympic movement to the soulless city of Atlanta in 1996. Yet, with many of the 105 voting members still undecided before each of the five countries made their presentations in Lausanne yesterday, style, personality and perseverance were key factors.

Gianna Angelopoulos, presiding over the Athenian bid, was quite magnificent; her grasp of the Olympic ideals, her precise, almost domineering attention to detail, her sophisticated approach, actually upstaged the briefer appearance during the morning of Nelson Mandela.

How dare we reduce a 3,000-year-old ideal to personality? Whatever the cynics say, the Olympic Games, involving almost 10,000 athletes, remain the best forum for human kind. The taking part remains relevant, the acceptance of common rules crosses all boundaries of race, culture or creed. And Angelopoulos, a lawyer, a politician and a mother of three, understands that perfectly.

Her ultimate appeal to the still mainly male membership of the Olympic committee centred on the word loyalty. "We are here because we are not discouraged," she said, referring back to the expectation that Greece would have been given the 1996 Games to mark the centennial of their rebirth near Mount Olympus.

Backed by the Greek government, she said that Athens had absorbed the previous Olympic rejection, and had set about the task of ridding the city of chronic pollution, of traffic congestion, almost of an old civilisation resting too long on its laurels; it was rebuilding, she said, principally because of the latent desire to take the Games back to their heritage.

Before her, Stockholm and South Africa had made their pitch. They, too, almost hinged the presentation on a single word; Stockholm's was "trust". South Africa's was "hope". The Stockholm presentation, built as expected around clean air and the will of athletes from around the world to speak on their behalf, featured Carl Lewis, arguably the most successful Olympian living, who stated: "You know what you get with Stockholm, a city where athletes can compete . . . you are not going to have a flea-market Games there."

But would it be peaceful? Stockholm had a surprise in store: Olof Stenhammer, president of their Olympic bid, produced, as if out of a hat, the bomber who had bedevilled the serenity, the impressive organisation and the inviting climate that made Stockholm a powerful bid.

In his speech, Stenhammer said: "We never expected to have to deal with violence but last night the police captured in Stockholm the loner responsible for this violence." Indeed, the Swedish police caught a man attempting to place another explosive device at the foot of a statue.

Then came South Africa. Theirs was a bid articulated through Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy Head of State, and enshrined in the meaning of the Cape of Good Hope. He did everything except guarantee that Cape Town could be made secure from its crime problem. Later, in answer to a question from Prince Albert of Monaco, an IOC member, Mbeki said that crime was a problem the whole country was confronting.

South Africa produced two athletes on their platform. Josia Thugwane, the 1996 Olympic marathon champion, spoke in his own tongue, Ndebele, saying: "Please forgive me, I am only now learning to read and write." He credits the lifting of apartheid and the gift of the Games for changing his life. He stood beside Penny Heyns, also a product of post-apartheid.

Carlos Menem used the first 15 minutes of the Buenos Aires bid to make a political speech, the like of which the Olympic Games must remain separate from. That was followed by a travelogue that received full marks for artistic impression, few for the purpose of staging the most complex show on earth.

As Menem departed, so Luciano Pavarotti swept in. He had 15 television crews falling over themselves as he entered the auditorium. "Rome is already waiting for the Games," he said. "It will be superready in 2004. I remember the Olympics of 1960, and it meant so much. Music and sport are two positive messages for the world."

Time to dance to Olympic tune

BALLROOM dancing, in its guise of dance sport, was last night on course for a place in the Olympic Games after being granted full recognition by the International Olympic Committee at its three-day meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland (Ruth Gledhill writes). Provisional recognition was given two years ago. Rudi Hubert, of the International Dance Sport Federation, said: "We are very happy." He said the next step would be to aim for a place in the full Olympic programme.

Glamorgan struggle as Kent win

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

KENT moved into the driving seat in the race for the Britannic Assurance championship yesterday. While they were completing a decisive win over Gloucestershire at Canterbury — delayed only by a stubborn 84 from Matt Windows — Glamorgan were locked in a tense struggle with Surrey at the Oval.

Remarkably, after dominating more than two days of the game, Glamorgan were in danger of disappointment. Graham Thorpe, with a superb 222, the best score of his career, led the resistance as Surrey, 234 behind on first innings and at one stage 32 for three in their second, rallied to reach 487, which left Glamorgan needing to make 254 to win against the clock and a strong spin attack.

Thorpe was supported first by Saqlain Mushtaq and then by Martin Bicknell as Glamorgan's frustration intensified after lunch.

Middlesex were set to score 301 in a shade under four hours to beat Somerset at Taunton and Pooley and Kallis gave them a good start. But the real progress among the leaders was made by Yorkshire at Headingley. Worcestershire, set 272 from 71 overs, collapsed to 26 for four against the youthful pace attack of Paul Hutchison and Chris Silverwood.

The NatWest Trophy finalists were both able to set off early for London after winning their games before lunch. Essex bowled out Lancashire for 324 at Old Trafford to win by 26 runs, while at Chester-le-Street, Warwickshire swamped Durham by an innings and 99 runs with Dougie Brown completing match figures of seven for 67.

☐ *Reports from some county cricket matches yesterday may be missing in early editions because of printing deadlines.*

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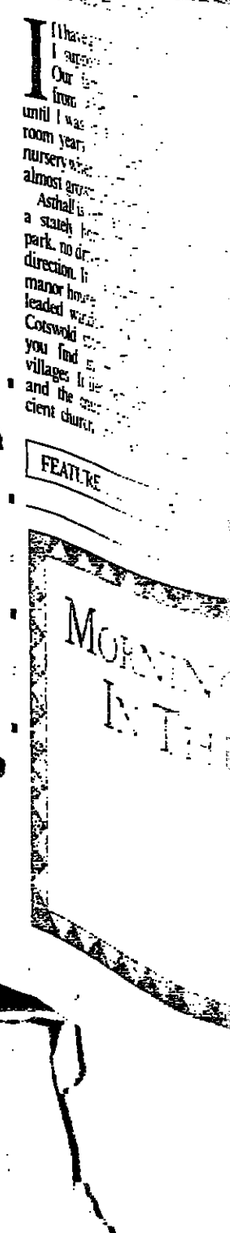
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FEATURE



Ten years on — the lessons of the Great Storm

Page 3

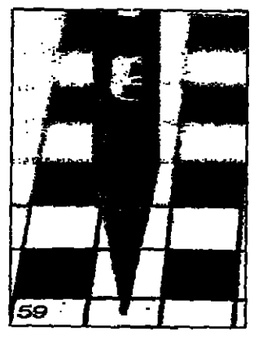
SHOPPING



Nighties that promise a good night

Page 5

JUMBO



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Page 28

BACK PAGE



Introducing *Dan Blair* — Peter Brookes's strip cartoon

Page 28

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1997 RK

THE TIMES

WEEKEND

As her family home comes up for sale, **Diana Mosley** recalls her childhood there with the 'hons and rebels'



The Mitford "hons" of the 1920s and their pets in the annual family photograph with their parents Lord and Lady Redesdale. Back row, left to right: Nancy, Diana, Tom and Pam. Front, left to right: Unity, Decca and Debo

The Mitfords at home

If I have got an "old home", I suppose it is Asthall. Our family lived there from when I was nine until I was 16, all my schoolroom years. No longer in the nursery when we arrived, I was almost grown up when we left.

Asthall is very far from being a stately home. There is no park, no drive, no view in any direction. It is a charming old manor house, with gables and leaded windows, roofed with Cotswold stone tiles, such as you find in most Cotswold villages. It lies between a hill and the churchyard, the ancient church only yards from the drawing-room windows. It was rather strange that we lived there so long, since in my father's eyes it was a temporary dwelling. During the First World War he had inherited a large house with a good deal of land in Gloucestershire. Even we children knew it was to be sold at the end of the war, as we were too poor to live there. And sold it duly was. My father's dream was to build his own house, on a hill above Swinbrook in Oxfordshire. The village and land belonged to him, and the coverts and shooting he loved were nearby. Meantime, while the building was going on, we were to live at Asthall, which adjoined his land and was conveniently on the market. Although we were six children, and soon to be seven, we could perfectly well have squeezed into Asthall for a couple of years. But no sooner were we installed than he began to build at Asthall. He built stables, garages, kennels. He built "cloisters" that joined it to the old house. He put more bedrooms there. He made a great barn in the garden into a library and music room. This large room, furnished with hundreds of old books, a grand piano and sofas, with high windows looking south and east, was all the world to my brother Tom and me at Asthall. He played all day, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, and I lay on a sofa, reading and listening. The room was far enough away to disturb nobody. We were allowed to read anything, provided we put the book back where it belonged.

The chief beauty of Asthall was a long, panelled hall with windows on both sides and a fire at each end. We were sheltered from draughts by Chinese screens, black lacquer with enormous white lacquer characters, very old and beautiful. In the dining room were 17th-century Japanese screens depicting eagles and other birds of prey on palest gold background. These treasures had been brought from the Far East by my grandfather.

The other end of the hall led to my mother's drawing room, with my father's business room beyond. We often sat with him listening to his gramophone.

Our schoolroom was at the bottom of the oak staircase: it faced south, but was always cold. We had an English governess in the term and a French one in the holidays. In the evenings our governess read us one of the Waverley novels, or

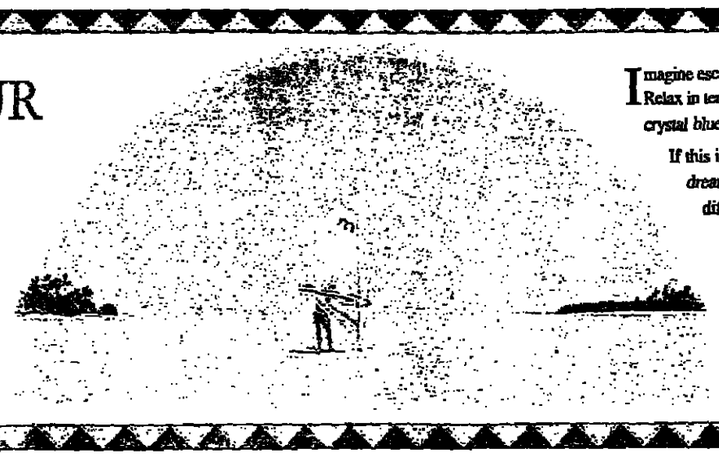
Continued on page 2

FEATURE ..... 3 | SHOPPING ..... 4-6 | GARDENING ..... 6,7 | PROPERTY ..... 8-11 | COUNTRY LIFE ..... 13 | HOME LIFE ..... 15 | FAITH ..... 16 | TRAVEL 17-25

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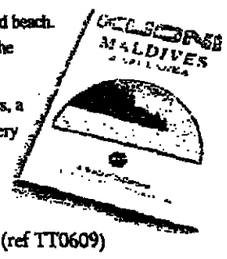
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TOPHAM



Unity: a fascist who became friendly with Hitler

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Left to right: Nancy immortalised her family childhood in novels; Deborah (Debo) became the Duchess of Devonshire; Jessica (Decca) eloped and ran away to the Spanish Civil War

'The mad, mad Mitfords'

Andrew Yates reports on a family like no other in politics and books

SOPHIA MURPHY, the Duchess of Devonshire's granddaughter, asserts in her book *The Mitford Family Album* that the six Mitford sisters, their one brother Tom, and Lord and Lady Redesdale, known familiarly as Muv and Farve, can claim to be Britain's best known family after the Royal Family.

Their upbringing was unusual. Only Tom received regular education, while his sisters had a variety of governesses, interspersed with an occasional term at school. As a result, she says, their literary careers derived from natural talent and self-education, which perhaps accounts for the originality of their writing.

However, apart from their literary proficiency — Nancy immortalised her family and childhood in her novels *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate* — the Mitfords are famous for their widely differing political views: Jessica, or Decca, became a communist, running away to the Spanish Civil War with her husband, Esmond Romilly. She later wrote *Hons and Rebels*, a wickedly funny portrait of her aristocratic childhood. Then she upset America with her satirical account of its funeral industry, *The American Way of Death*.

Diana and Unity were both fascists. Diana married Sir Oswald Mosley, founder of the British Union of Fascists, while Unity achieved notoriety by becoming a close friend of Hitler. The right-wing opinions of Diana and Unity and the left-wing views of Jessica became too extreme to be reconcilable. Jessica wanted a different sort of life from her upbringing and, at the age of 12, opened a "running away" account. As a teenage joke, she had decided that if Diana was to be a fascist, then she would be a communist. To learn more on the subject, she spent some of her running-away money on left-wing literature.

DEBORAH, or Debo, the youngest Mitford sister, was teased by the others for her lack of intellectual pursuits. She married Lord Andrew Cavendish who, in 1950, became the 11th Duke of Devonshire. The least known of the Mitfords are Tom, a barrister who was killed in action, and Pamela, hailed by John Betjeman as "gentle Pamela, most rural of them all".

Much of the fascination of the Mitfords is that their actions when young were considered outrageous and encouraged publicity. Contemporary headlines fuelled public interest: "At It Again — the Mad, Mad Mitfords"... "The Girl Who Loved Hitler"... "Peer's daugther 'elopes' to Spain"... "Lady Mosley held by Scotland Yard"...

"For so many people from one family to flaunt so flagrantly authority and to act just as they pleased in so many different ways set new precedents," Sophia Murphy says. "Everyone has daydreams but the Mitfords turned them into reality."

● *The Mitford children: Nancy (1904-1973), Pamela (1907-1994), Thomas (1909-1945), Diana (1910-), Unity (1914-1948), Jessica (1917-1996), Deborah (1920-).*

TOPHAM



Diana married the British fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley

DES JENSON



Asthall, Oxfordshire, the childhood home of the Mitfords and where "Uncle Matthew" was born

Continued from page 1

Bleak House, or *The Mill on the Floss*. The nursery was upstairs: it was a haven, with our darling Nanny and beloved little sisters. My worst dread was that I might be sent to school, away from ponies, dogs, guinea pigs: above all away from the nursery and its denizens, but I never was.

In the holidays we were supposed to speak French, which resulted in a perhaps not unwelcome silence in the dining room. Visiting children considered us a noisy family, there was no question of being seen and not heard. We argued, teased, screamed with laughter at family jokes, the funniest my father's.

Sometimes gloom and quiet descended for a while, when my father used to tell us he was ruined. We wondered anxiously where the next loaf of bread would come from. He lost a lot of money trying to farm, but during the Asthall years he also made many disastrous investments, generally the result of talking to some brilliantly clever cove at the Marlborough Club, his London resort. Building was his expensive hobby.

"You realise you children will have to earn your own livings don't you?" he would say. "I can't give you anything." This made our blood run cold. We couldn't imagine that anyone would wish to employ us. For one thing, we did everything badly. We rode every day, but we didn't ride well. We played tennis, and went to tennis parties given by children in the neighbourhood, but they played far better than we did. We had music lessons in Oxford, and we went to a dancing class, with mediocre results. Could we even type.

When me father said he could give us nothing, my mother always said: "Of course not. Girls don't expect it."

It was my mother who made Asthall perfectly lovely inside, she who defended us from my father's vagaries. He usually disliked our friends, but she was welcoming.

On Sundays my father liked us to go with him to matins at Swinbrook, we preferred evensong at Asthall. Mr Ward, the Asthall vicar, once preached a sermon scolding my father: "People who run shouting with their dogs through God's holy acre," he said crossly. (We went coursing on Sundays and fetched the dogs from the kennels: the churchyard was a short cut). We told my father about the sermon but he only laughed.

When I was about 14 the organist left the village and Mr Ward asked me to play the organ. It was a very old organ: a village boy pumped the air into it, and if he stopped no sound came. I knew the service by heart; the little tunes of hymns and canticles were simple, and I knew just when to give Mr Ward his note and how to play the responses accompanying Mrs Ward's powerful contralto. Occasionally the organ seemed to come alive and emitted squeaks and groans, but I knew it would have to stay quiet when it ran out of air. I used two stops, one for noise, one for pathos.



Diana Mosley

'My father, like Uncle Matthew, was angry, affectionate, uproarious, by turns'

The manor sthall was on the edge of the Heythrop country; we were allowed to hunt accompanied by the groom, but only if we rode sidesaddle. My habit, made in Cirencester, was probably not very elegant. I hacked to the meet, almost everyone did in those days.

The years went by, the slow years of childhood. We became very fond of the old house, and wondered if my father had forgotten about his dream. He loved fishing for trout in the Windrush, which flowed by the bottom of our garden. But he spent most of his time in the coverts, shooting in winter and watching the baby pheasants in spring, with his favourite keeper, Steele who, during the rearing season, lived in an old railway carriage in the wood, tending his broody hens.

But my father had another hobby: motorcars. He spent hours at Cowley with William Morris. As he had nothing much to do, it seems a pity, looking back, that he didn't earn his living by joining this immensely successful firm. It never occurred either to him or Morris, later Lord Nuffield, that his expertise might be turned to gold.

The dream persisted. My father sold Asthall and began to build again. Not just a house; he built cottages, stables, garages, all over again. As though at a loss as to what to build next, he even built a squash court, although none of us played.

How much did we mind leaving Asthall? Speaking for myself, not desperately. We had the same village life, the same Christmas parties for all the children from Asthall and Swinbrook and, although my parents saw no neighbours, there were some we liked. In any case, I was nearly grown up, life was about to begin, real life not dreams in a cold schoolroom. Being so incompetent, so "bad" at everything, no longer seemed to matter.

"Families, I hate you!" said André Gide.

We never again had real family life after we left Asthall. We grew up, married; Tom no longer came for endless holidays. We saw each other constantly, but there was no longer the daunting, rather stifling feeling that you knew whom you would see, eat with, quarrel with, ride with, bore and be bored by, laugh with, day after day, week after week. Yet I did miss Asthall, its aged beauty, its terrifying pitch darkness at night, the odd sounds and fresh smells.

Nearly 20 years later my sister Nancy wrote her best-selling novels *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*. Her masterpiece was her lifelike portrait of my father as Uncle Matthew. An old refugee from eastern Europe came into Heywood Hill's bookshop where she worked, to congratulate her. "Onkel Matthew!" he said. "He woz my father!" Rather surprised, she told this to Evelyn Waugh. "Uncle Matthew is everybody's father," was his reply.

My father was at his most Uncle-Matthew-like at Asthall. Angry, funny, affectionate, furious, uproarious by turns, and always totally unpredictable. At Swinbrook his gaiety seemed to diminish, and he became almost, if never quite, grown up.

● *Asthall Manor is for sale through Strutt & Parker, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (01608 650502): asking price, £1.35 million.*

After 73 years, Olive the housemaid returns to Asthall – and checks for dust

Echoes of laughter from the past

It seems as if nothing has changed. The rooms, now nearly empty in readiness for the sale, even have an old-fashioned smell about them, a dry scent, fine wood, old polish, lives lived the way lives used to be. In the kitchen squats a huge black cast-iron range, looking like the granddaddy of all Agas. In the reception hall, in a cupboard inside a cupboard, a telephone that looks as if it would not seem unfamiliar to Alexander Graham Bell hides discreetly. The Duchess of Devonshire has explained that her father, Lord Redesdale, hated the telephone: thus this eccentric, closeted arrangement.

That the house is caught in the past becomes even clearer when walking through it with Olive Hanley. Mrs Hanley, now 90, was a housemaid here from 1921 to 1924, and sometimes cared for the younger Mitford girls — Debo, now the Duchess of Devonshire, Jessica and Unity. "The rooms are just the same," she says, in a wonder of recollection. This is her first sight of the house in 73 years. She runs her finger along the top of the fine stone mantelpiece in the morning room, expressing disapproval of the dust. "I used to whiten these fireplaces every morning," she says. "His lordship used to say, 'Don't take the ashes away, just put the logs on top'." She cleaned rooms, polished floors ("with beeswax and turpentine — none of this modern stuff: I was always on my knees: they were this big," she says, holding her hands in a wide round), watched the children and was paid 28 shillings a month.

Asthall Manor was the home of the Mitfords from 1919 to 1926, and walking through the front door it seems possible to believe that Lord and Lady Redesdale and their seven children had only just left. The house, a 17th-century manor — much altered by Lord Redesdale, although never intended as a permanent home, is set in the quilted Cotswolds and casts its shadow over Nancy Mitford's *The Pursuit of Love* and *Love in a Cold Climate*, and for the older Mitford children (Nancy, Tom, Diana and Pam) it was the home of their childhood.

We climb two long flights of stairs to revisit the attic room, one of seven in a warren at the top of the house, that Mrs Hanley shared with Nelly, the second housemaid (Olive, only 14, was the third). Her sister was a friend of the henhouse-maid (those hens which were the "Hons" of Jessica Mitford's *Hons and Rebels*) and so she came by her position. It was one which today might seem idyllic, but for the young Olive it was hard work from morning till night. "We had to be up before everyone else to light the fires," she says — and that included the great range in the kitchen, laboriously ignited with tinder. Olive and Nelly's room had no fire and just one small window that looked out over the garden. "We'd lean out and the boys would throw apples up to us." She presses her face against the clouded glass as if their voices still ring in her ears. She might have been here yesterday. She then points out the cook's room, the parlourmaid's room and all the other accommodation for the ten servants.



Memories: Olive Hanley as she was at 14 when she started work as a housemaid in Asthall Manor

That the grander rooms of the house, the splendid study with its ornate plaster ceiling, the reception hall with its Jacobean panelling, the airy dining room and ballroom, are a revelation to her is not an indication of failing memory — merely evidence of the rigidity of servants' lives at the time. "I've seen more of the house today than I did when I was here," says Mrs Hanley, recalling scuttling through the kitchen in summer when the delicious smells of jam-making filled the house. Now the peach trees that filled the jars have grown through the roof of the greenhouse.

She recalls watching the cook prepare elaborate meals for the "downstairs" household, and seeing them vanish into the dining room, untasted by the help. "It always looked so delicious," she says, a little wistful. What did she get to eat? "Oh, a little bread and cheese, adding: "All the groceries had to be brought by horse and cart from Oxford." Things were not necessarily simpler then.



Reflecting: Mrs Hanley at 90

She has fond memories of all the children — particularly Debo ("She used to slide down the banister of the stairs"); Unity, she recalls, was "a bit of a handful" — and the great Christmas parties at Asthall, to which all the local children were invited.

Lord Redesdale sold Asthall Manor in 1926, when he moved his family to Swinbrook. It was bought by Mr J.A. Hardcastle, and inherited by his son, who lived here until his death last year.

The younger Mr Hardcastle was apparently quite content with the house just as it was — which is why Mrs Hanley and the Duchess of Devonshire (though she was only six when the family left the house) are able to say that even the paint seems to be the same. The curtains that hang in what was once Lady Redesdale's bedroom — a bright, panelled space with a wide, leaded bow-window — appear to be the ones that she (or rather, her parlourmaid) would have drawn, lending a somewhat Miss Havisham air to the room. When I touched them the cloth turned to dust in my hand.

The laughter of the Mitford girls still seems to echo through Asthall Manor, not just because it has been frozen in time but because, in its Cotswold warmth and grace, it seems a house that would always retain laughter, whoever was the source.

ERICA WAGNER

As the tenth anniversary of the Great Storm approaches, **Bill Frost** reports on its positive legacy

When Mother Nature knows best

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A decade on, a carpet of bluebells masks the storm damage of 1987, which uprooted trees and caused devastation. Experts now say the "natural clear-out" was a good thing

While Britain slept on the night of October 15, 1987, the forces of nature mustered in the Bay of Biscay preparing a devastating strike timed for the small hours. The Great Storm took 18 lives, marooned hundreds of communities, brought public transport to a standstill in many places and ran up a bill for damages of close to £800 billion.

There was fury at forecasters in general, and the BBC's Michael Fish in particular, for failing to warn the nation to batten down the hatches in readiness for the tempest. Their colleagues in France and Holland had issued "extreme bad weather/hurricane warnings" some hours before the big blow arrived.

In fact, Fish had told viewers on Thursday: "A woman rang and said she heard a hurricane is on the way. Well, there isn't." As the first banshee howl of the wind rattled his window in the small hours, he must have realised his error.

Everyone caught in the storm's path will remember exactly where they were and how they trembled during those terrifying hours. Britain had seen nothing like the Great Storm for 300 years.

A decade on, have lessons been learnt the hard way — would Britain find herself ill-prepared once more should the elements declare war? And have the dire predictions of irreparable damage to some of our ancient woodlands and gardens come true?

According to the forecasters, there are now better computers, more observational buoys, increased data from aircraft, improved satellite information and almost double the number of radars.

Our famous gardens, many of which looked as though they had been caught in a heavy artillery bombardment, have been restored. In some cases, conservators and botanists have praised the Great Storm and described it as "a blessing in disguise . . . a good natural clear-out of the dead wood".

That night of gales, described by the London Weather Centre as "probably among the worst in recorded history", began when gusts up to 110mph roared in from the Atlantic ("like an express train" in one weatherman's words) to strike the south coast in the early hours.

Drivers spoke of extraordinary escapes as trees came down on roads in the Great Storm's path. Others did not live to tell the tale.

Houses and hotels collapsed, ships were wrecked, railway lines and thousands of roads were blocked by fallen trees, bringing chaos to public transport. There were widespread power cuts and some areas remained without electricity for weeks. Supplies to the South East were shut down to save the National Grid from collapse and prevent permanent damage to equipment as winds and flying debris tripped safety cut-outs. Among the shipping disasters a diving vessel, Smit Lloyd One, endangered oil rigs in the North Sea after losing power and steering. Meanwhile, gas workers were being winched to safety by helicopters as winds gusted at more than 90mph.

The worst hit areas were the Isle of Wight, where the pier at Shanklin was demolished, and Hampshire. Troops were called in to disentangle power cables that had become wrapped around trees.

The winds cut a swathe of destruction across the county. There was severe flooding caused by 30ft waves in small harbour towns.

With the emergency services stretched beyond their limits, the looters were to move in. Hundreds of shops in Brixton, Islington and Brighton were plundered.

Sevenoaks, in Kent, lost six of the seven trees which gave the town its name and the Tower of London closed for the first time since the dark days of the Blitz.

As dawn came up over the battlefield, the full extent of the disaster became plain and eyewitnesses told of miraculous escapes from the clutches of the killer wind. Government ministers demanded answers from the weathermen while cowboy glaziers, tree surgeons and roofers roamed in search of victims. There were many.

Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary at the time, described the Great Storm as "the most widespread night of disaster in the South East of England since 1945. "Clearly the Met Office will want to look at their experience, and *our* experience over the past 24 hours to see if anything can be done to improve their predictions," he said grimly.

Storm damage across the South East was said by farmers to be "much, much worse than anything in living memory". Glasshouses were destroyed in Sussex and orchards in Kent were "ravaged". Many millions of pounds of damage to crops was suffered by farmers from Kent to Leicestershire. The bill in West Sussex alone, where devastation centred on concentrated horticultural areas, was estimated by the National Union of Farmers to be more than £20 million. The eventual figure was considerably higher.



An aerial view of the storm damage in the National Trust's Emmett's Garden in Kent

Apple growers spoke of "wholescale carnage" as they surveyed scores of acres of trees uprooted by the winds. Many barns, grain stores and livestock units in Sussex, Kent, Bedfordshire and East Anglia were destroyed. At a poultry house near Chelmsford in Essex, which lost its roof, 17,000 birds were killed or so seriously injured that they had to be destroyed.

Thousands of pupils stayed at home as schools across the South closed for the day because of blocked roads and the danger of falling trees.

However, many of the images flashed around the world by televison companies and press agencies concentrated on the Great Storm's *Blitzkrieg* against some of Britain's best-loved gardens and woodland areas. "England's glory destroyed in one night," cried the front-page headline on *Paris Soir*, one of France's most widely read regional newspapers.

The morning after, Ian Beyer, then the deputy curator of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew declared that "the landscape would never quite be the same again". Beyer added: "This is the worst day in the history of Kew. It is impossible to put any kind of financial estimate on the damage; literally thousands of trees, many more than 2,000 years old, have been devastated.

"The face of the gardens will never be the same again — a third of trees which have stood for hundreds of years will have to come down. All of us are drained, there are not words to describe how we feel about what has happened."

Visitors to Wakehurst, Kew's satellite near East Grinstead in West Sussex, were greeted by an even more dramatic picture of devastation. While a mere 800 or so perished at the Royal Botanic Gardens — some more than two centuries old — between 15,000 and 20,000 trees were lost at Wakehurst.

Ian Beyer said at the time that his "entire career, entire life's work had been destroyed in a single night". Among the celebrity victims of the Great Storm: the Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), native to China and dating back to 1761, lost a large limb. Another original planting, the Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*), had been terminally battered when the Great Storm struck. A 70-tonne crane was hired to lift out the root.

Mark Bridger, now one of the Kew Arboretum managers, remembers the aftermath of the Great Storm with great clarity. "It was my first year there and I was exhilarated by the sight of so many great trees uprooted. I had never seen so many picked up and tossed down — it was very exciting.

"My older colleagues were devastated though, probably angered by my excitement. Each tree that fell was like a member of the family.

"The weathermen came in for quite a pasting, even though an earlier warning would not have helped the trees. Had Michael Fish been there, he would not have survived the morning."

However, Mr Bridger believes the Great Storm made "some hard but essential decisions" that horticultural botanists at Kew might have backed away from. "It's an ill wind, you might say, because there had been random planting in the past. Now we have been able to put all the species together as they should have been and have been able to make better use of the space the Great Storm gave us.

"That said, if the same thing happened again without warning from the forecasters, I too would be furious at the loss of my trees, my children. Like my colleagues back in 1987, I would have wanted blood — though there was precious little one could have done, even with a warning."

National Trust properties in Kent and East Sussex devastated by the Great Storm have also benefited from that "ill wind".

Hurricane damage is said to have provided a long-term, postive legacy. Flora and fauna have flourished in the areas stripped of trees by the gales. Trunks snapped off by the gales provide a habitat for rare toadstools and tawny owls and wildflowers.

Storm-battered timber is the medium of choice for many craftsmen. Out of devastation they have fashioned furniture and toys. An article in the latest edition of the National Trust magazine says: "Of course, it is upsetting to see storm damage on the scale of '87. It's always sad to lose important landmarks, and we all miss old friends but by and large, the landscapes have been enriched . . . a good natural clear-out every century or so would seem to be no bad thing."

As for the Met Office, so roundly rebuked ten years ago, are the forecasters completely confident they would not let us go so easily into that darkest of nights again without warning?

Early foul weather warnings are sent across the country within 30 minutes. A recent survey revealed that the Met Office surpassed customer satisfaction targets, with 95 per cent of users satisfied with the service they received.

So far, very good — but is the warning system now failsafe? "Never say never," said a Met Office insider. "I wouldn't put big money not waking up to the aftermath of another Great Storm in my lifetime. That's Mother Nature for you."



Devastation: Lord Sackville in Knole Park after the storm in 1987

LORD SACKVILLE'S GREAT TREE REPLANTING SCHEME

ON A sunny hillside at Knole Park, in Sevenoaks, Kent, the sixth Lord Sackville, 84, is shoulder-deep in undergrowth, hacking out birch scrub. He has been freeing trees for decades, ever since finding a young fir half-strangled by brambles and setting to with the kitchen scissors.

Lord Sackville was warned that it would cost at least £500,000 to replace the 250,000 trees that he lost during the Great Storm of 1987, but says simply: "The trees had to be replaced."

The deer park at Knole, gifted to the Sackvilles in 1566 by Elizabeth I, is being restored with thousands of hardwoods which will not be productive for decades. They represent a dead loss in financial terms.

Lord Sackville's immediate decision, while the rest of the country was still considering where to begin, meant that when contractors were not to be had for love nor money, at Knole the clearers were already at work. Clearing the park took nine months and cost £250,000. Up to 15 men cut and hauled 10,000 tonnes of timber. Beech was shipped to Turkey for furniture making and to Portugal for pallets. Pine went to Scandinavia for pulping and larch to Wales for fencing. Low-grade chestnut went into copper smelting and plans were drawn up for large-scale replanting.

IN 1988, Chancellor Nigel Lawson cancelled Schedule D tax advantages for forest investors. This left a number of Scottish contractors without work. Teams from the Highlands were brought down to Knole and housed in estate cottages, accomplishing the planting over the next two winters.

Five miles of costly fencing needed to be erected to protect the new young trees from being eaten by deer and the call went out to Wales. This produced another team of specialists.

Junior pupils from Sevenoaks School were enlisted to collect acorns. Thanks to their help, many oak sub-species were grown under glass until the slips, or baby trees, were ready for planting.

Ten years on the new trees are barely discernible above the surrounding bracken and birch. Above them stand the isolated ancients which withstood the tempest and punctuating the scene are the gaunt silvered Daliesque trunks of dead trees, home to at least 30 endangered species of beetles.

It just needs another 90 years. And the patience of a lord.

SALLY SMITH

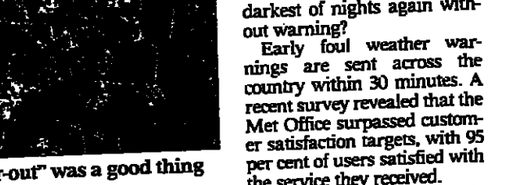
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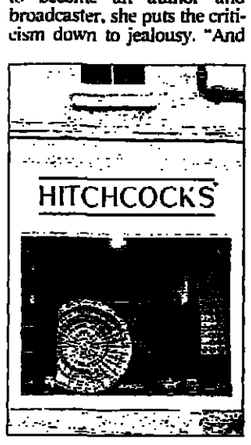
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Michael Cable goes shopping with Bel Mooney, an arts and crafts enthusiast

'Top designers leave me cold'



my favourite shop

RICHARD FAULKS



Bel Mooney, with Fleur Hitchcock, prefers the work of "crafts people who are creating wonderfully individual hand-made things in natural materials"

Bel Mooney is still smarting from some of the media ridicule heaped on her when she joined her teenage daughter, Kitty, and other eco-warriors camping out in protest against the building of the Bath bypass. "Why is it that the witches and bitches who have newspaper columns should choose to do me over so comprehensively for acting in a perfectly reasonable way?" asks Mooney, who spent a week roughing it in a *yurt*, a Mongolian-style tent.

A journalist before going on to become an author and broadcaster, she puts the criticism down to jealousy. "And guilt, perhaps, that they themselves would not be prepared to get muddy and dirty or to stand up for something they really believed in."

Mooney and I were browsing in Hitchcocks', a craft gallery in Bath where the four floors of hand-made clothes, knitwear, ceramics, jewellery and automata by British and Irish craft designers reflect the taste and style of this 50-year-old, who laughingly describes herself as "a reformed hippy — but not that reformed."

"The shop is full of extraordinary things that I covet desperately," she says, and reveals that she regularly contrives to send her husband, Jonathan Dimbleby, along when birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas approach, having primed the owner, Fleur Hitchcock as to which item she should suggest to him as the perfect present for his wife.

A Gillian Stein brooch in the shape of a bronze tree with a single pearl hanging like an apple from a branch, which she is wearing on her lapel, was one wedding anniversary result of this system. A Sarah Burnett hand-knitted cardigan decorated with moons and stars arrived for Easter. At present she has her eyes on a Regency-style "Mr Darcy" coat in wool, velvet and silk by Sally Muir, the daughter of Frank Muir and wife of Mooney's journalist colleague Geoffrey Wheatcroft.

"The likes of Calvin Klein, Versace and Prado leave me completely cold," she says. "But here you're talking about a different kind of designer: artists and crafts people who are creating wonderfully individual hand-made things in natural materials."

Hitchcocks' is among a growing number of Craft Council-listed shops and galleries trying to dispel the image of what is witheringly referred to as the "corn dollies and pot pourri" of arts and crafts. "There is a lot of sophisticated work being done by a growing number of hugely talented British, Scottish and Irish designers," says Fleur Hitchcock, whose mother opened the first shop in Winchester in 1976 before moving to larger premises in Alresford, Hampshire, four years later. The Bath shop and gallery followed in 1986, and Mooney's attention was soon drawn to the unusual window displays.

Married 29 years, Mooney and Dimbleby have an 160-acre farm run on organic lines on historic Lansdowne Hill, two miles outside the city. "To me it is the perfect city," says Mooney, who is a vice-president of the Bath Festivals Trust. "The only problem is the traffic and the parking."

Which brings us back to motorway protests. "This is something we have to take seriously and we have to make people thinks about it," she insists. "I'm very proud of what I did."

● *Hitchcocks, 10 Chapel Row, Bath, BA1 1HN. Tel 01225 330646. Open Mon-Sat, 10-6.30.*

BARGAINS FOR £100

THE SECRET of finding bargains at the Portobello Road market in west London, which on Saturdays heaves with tourists browsing through a vast jumble of bric-a-brac and antiques, is to visit on a Friday. You may dream of picking up a bargain in London's street markets, but it isn't easy: dealers for those chintzy antique shops in the Cotswolds have usually been there before you. So, unless you're prepared to get up at an ungodly hour, you should go on a day when others are at work. The bazaar-like market, covered by the white awning of Portobello Green underneath the Westway flyover, is Bohemian in character but very much more local on a weekday. Girls like me, believing ourselves to have an original sense of dress, inevitably look the same, but we still expect bargains from the motormouth stallholders.

I didn't need an antiques book to find the brooch made of felt flowers that I bought (£6) or some 1920s chainmail scarves. At Mag's stall, I passed over a black mohair sweater with a huge silk tiger's head sewn on to it — it would have made an impact because it was so tacky — and opted for a black, belted top, probably 1970s and styled in a Russian manner with embroidered smocking around the low V-neck and long, flared sleeves. It cost £8.

Attracted by a flash of red and glitter two stalls along, I grabbed a red leather, tassled cowboy dress with diamanté studs and matching sash. It cost £30 — and I've no idea where I can wear it. I then flitted past the stalls filled with the flavour of the moment (Chinese dresses and tops) and rounded off a £100 shopping expedition by buying two classic wardrobe staples: a £25 pair of immaculate black suede stilletos and a pink double-ply cashmere sweater from the "100 per cent cashmere" rail for £30.



Black suede stilettos, £25

KIRA JOLLIFFE

GADGETS

YOU MAY well think you had *mastered going to the* lavatory in the dead of night. Clap eyes on the *His 'n' Her Nightlight* from Sensor Products and you will appreciate how lucky you have been until now. This gadget, which is a little larger than an air freshener, attaches to the inside of the lavatory lid to tell you, with either a red or green glow, whether the seat is up or down. "A red target light shines for him if the seat is up; green means go for her if the seat is down," say the instructions. "Red means STOP to her, yet provides light for him — so no more midnight mistakes."

The product is "motion-activated", an unfortunate term in this context, with an infra-red sensor to turn on the light as you approach. It is battery-operated and, after you have paid your visit, it clicks off automatically. The nightlight sticks to the lavatory lid with a large self-adhesive disc. If you have positioned it correctly, it should stick uncomfortably into the small of your back when you lean back.

Even with guiding lights you still need your wits about you. The instructions warn: "Always view the seat position before sitting."

You might also find a *Rio Tens Pain Relief System* in a bathroom first-aid kit, but it is as comforting as the electric chair.

Here "drug-free pain relief" is dispensed with a palm-size unit generating electrical pulses to react with the nervous system, creating either tingling sensations or, on full power, a very nasty shock. I found no pain-relieving benefits, although every time I pass the fridge the light goes on.



His 'n' Her Nightlight

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *His 'n' Her Nightlight', £24.95 plus p&p, from the Gadget Shop (01482 860860). Rio Tens Pain Relief System, £49.95 plus p&p, from Innovations (0990 807060).*

Take a shine to industry's cast-offs

METAL PRODUCTS

IF THE green movement has its way in the next millennium, there will be no rubbish: just objects that haven't been used yet. And, if the design gurus get their message across, our homes will be scattered with shiny metallic objects picked out of old warehouses, scrapyards, chandlers, office suppliers, hospitals and laboratories. Industrial design has moved away from factory to home.

The vogue for large loft spaces has increased demand for stylish, clean-cut industrial pieces that are minimal and high-tech, yet classy.

"Minimal", "recycled" and "industrial" are all buzz words for the modern urban dweller with a conscience, an imagination and an eye for contemporary design. These home-owners are forever on the lookout for glittering objects that are useful and ecologically friendly, as well as being beautifully designed and inexpensive. And there are now scores of designers aiding that transformation.

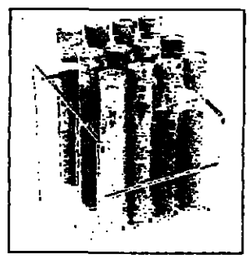
Deborah Thomas, for example, uses broken glass and metal to create massive fairy-tale chandeliers. "I like the visual splendour arising from a material that has lost its use, that would normally be thrown out," she says. "It's the most unlikely materials that I like — things that people are normally wary of."

Neil Austin, too, favours humble objects for their lack of pretension: being a furniture designer to him is "like being an electrician or plumber. It is using everyday objects and performing a useful and socially responsible service." His inventions include a lamp made from an egg, a balloon stick and a battery pack, and shelves constructed from an old clothes-horse and metal slats.

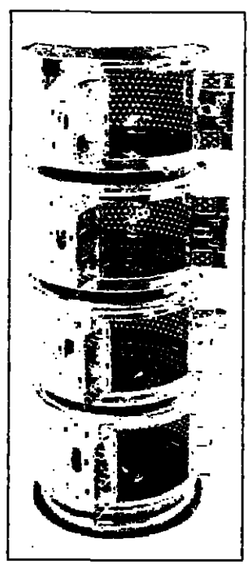
Pieces of disused aircraft and industrial machinery have become particularly hot property for furniture makers who appreciate clean lines and shiny surfaces. "With factory rejects you get that lovely modern uniformity as it is crafted by machine," says Astrid Zala, one of the members of the design trio Jam. Jam has built a name transforming materials discarded by industrial production: television stands from carcasses of aircraft, a storage unit made of reject washing machine drums, a shelving unit created from ladders.

The metal objects do not have to be big to make a statement: a science-lab stand with test tubes makes a neat little spice rack or vase; left-over aluminium flooring can be cut down into table mats or coasters. Let your imagination run riot in the hardware shop, the modern fable says, and your home will shine.

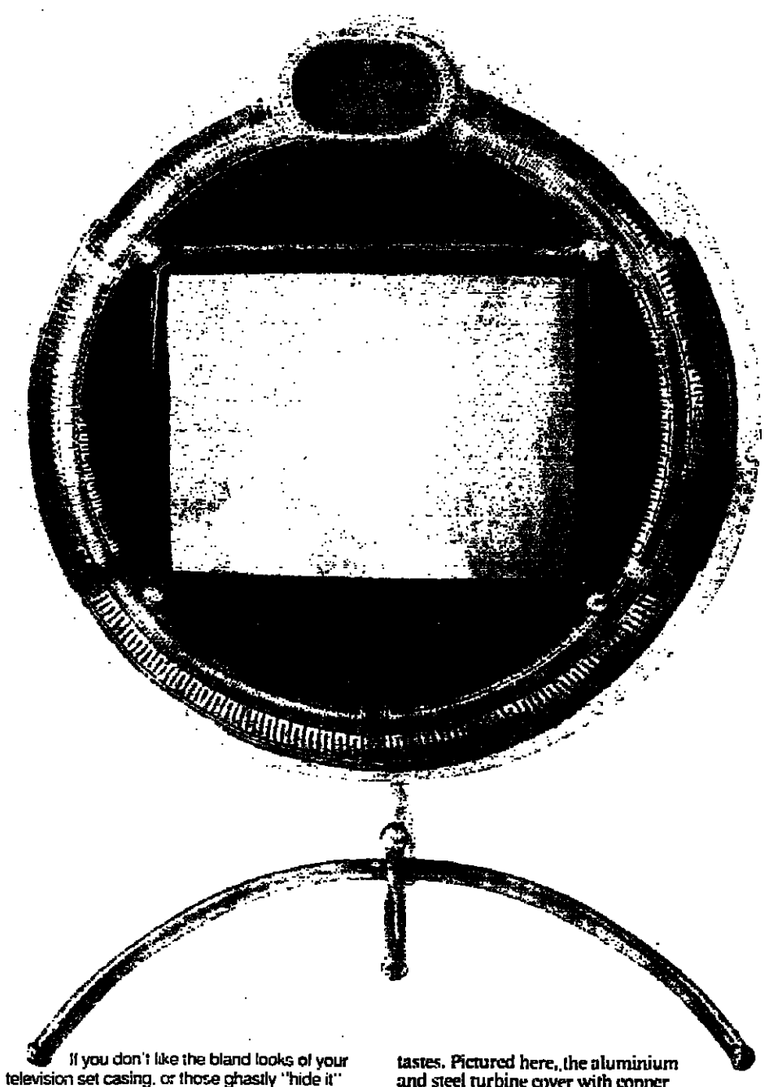
LISA GRAINGER



Anna Albright's science-lab style chrome tabletop spice rack, with 12 stoppered test tubes sold filled with various herbs, £39, or empty to contain your own tongue-curling concoctions, £29.75, John Lewis (0171-629 7711)



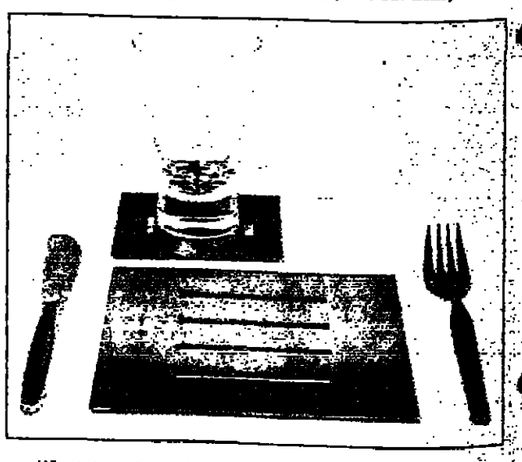
Jam, a design group which specialises in recycling, has created a range of unusual furniture which includes this Robostacker storage unit made from imperfect washing-machine drums, £350 (stockists, 0171-278 5567)



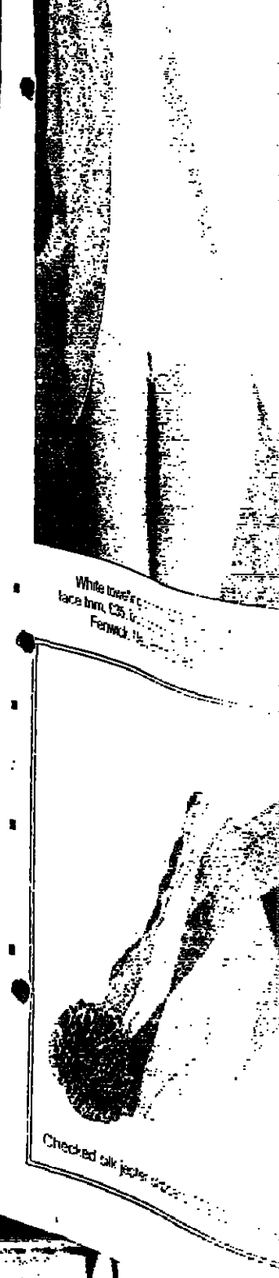
If you don't like the bland looks of your television set casing, or those ghastly "hide it" wooden cupboards, why not splash out on innovative housing made from an old jet aircraft engine. Designer Paul Badham converts engines into television housing for those with eclectic tastes. Pictured here, the aluminium and steel turbine cover with copper elements provides the housing, which sits on a rolled-steel tubing stand; the speaker sits in the air intake at the top. This unusual "sculpture" costs £2,173. To order, call 0171-923 0334



Proving that there's always something enticingly new in the shops, a whole range of containers is being made in woven aluminium. This trendy magazine basket costs £14.95, from The Source, 26-40 Kensington High Street, London W8 (0171-937 2626)



Why not give those decorative floral tablemats a rest and try the ultimate new-age heat and moisture protectors. Though perhaps not as easy on the eye at first, these non-scratch, burnished stainless steel tablemats (£9.50) and coasters (£2.95) will certainly be the talk of the table. From Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666)

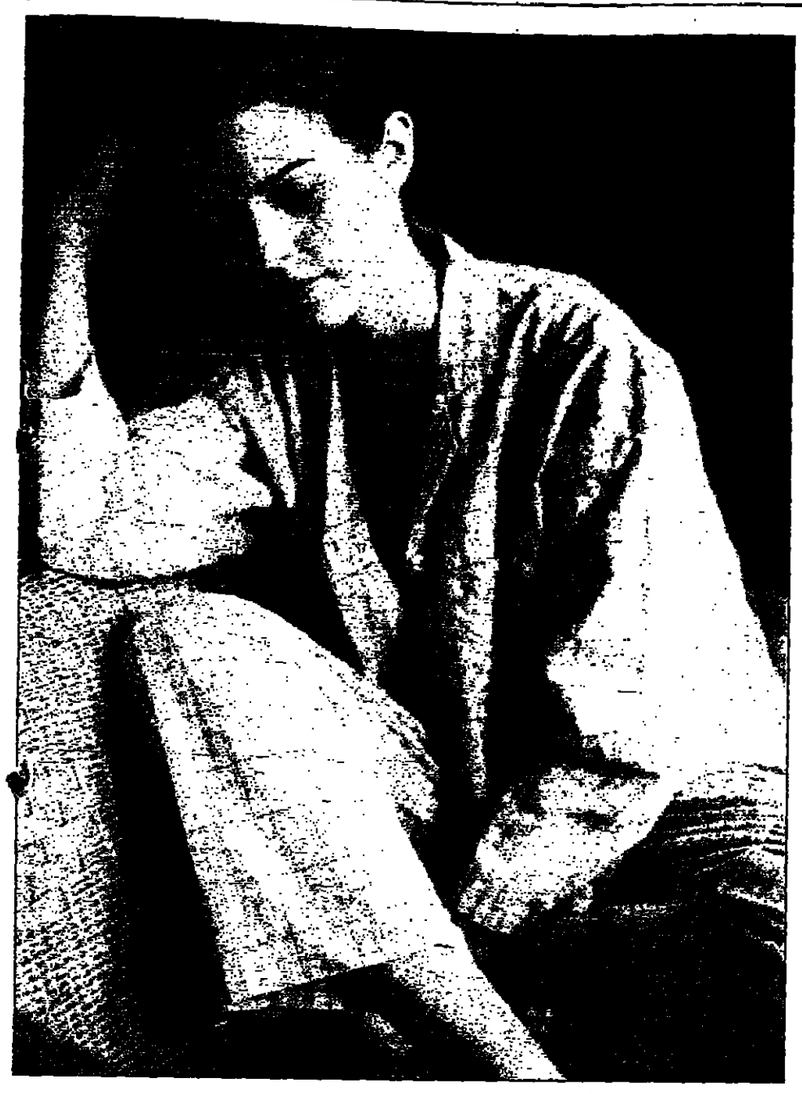


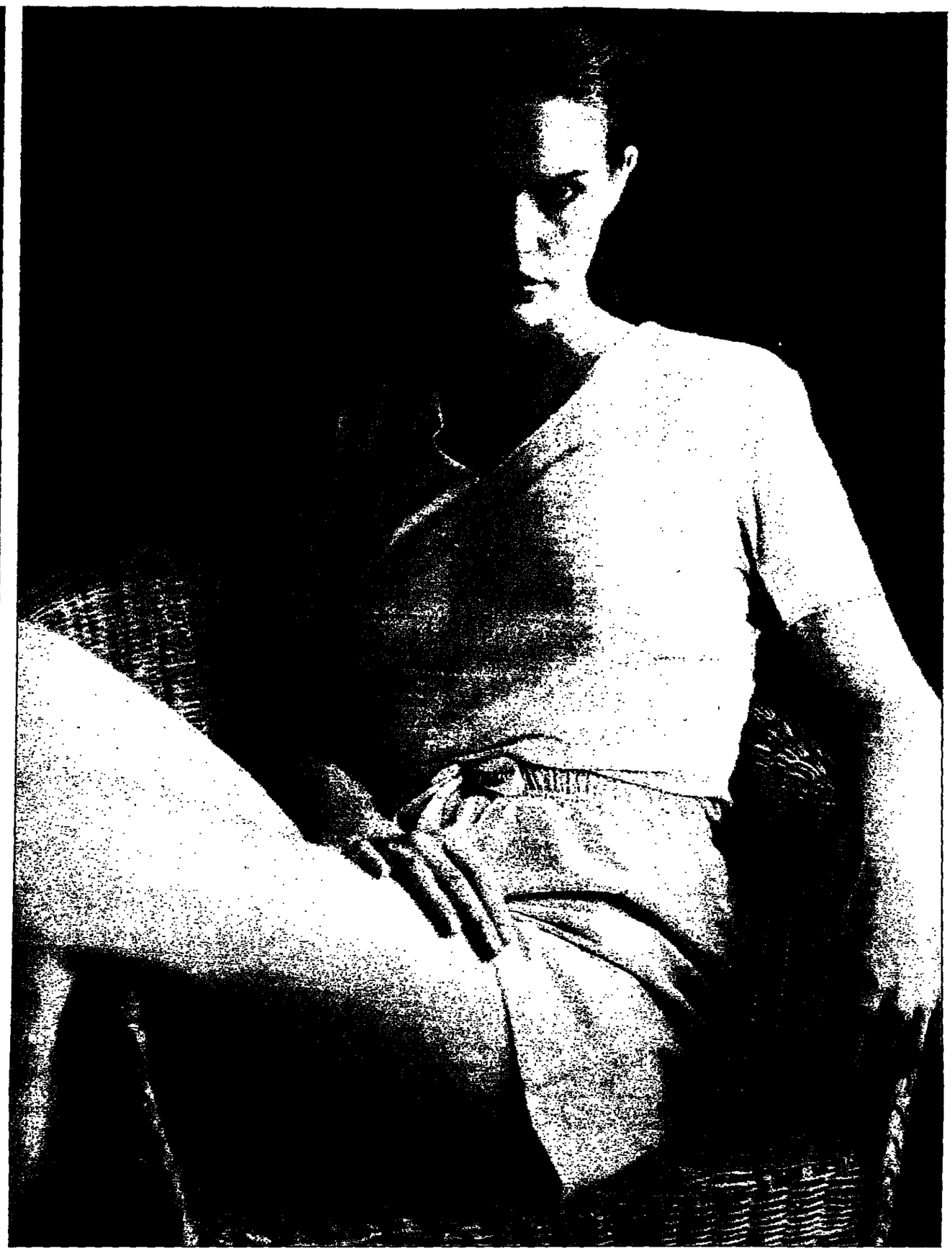
White towelling [illegible] lace trim, £35, [illegible] Fenwick, [illegible]

Checked silk jacket, [illegible]

[illegible] World Cup game," [illegible] as a result of sustaining [illegible] considerable concern.

At the end of the day, it's what you wear in bed at night that really counts, says **Heath Brown**





Brushed cotton-check pyjama set, £30, Knickerbox, branches nationwide (0171-284 1744)
White fine-strap vest, £14.50 (pack of three), Muji, 39-41 Shelton Street, WC2 (0171-323 2208)

All dressed up for a good night in



White towelling shorts, £29, Calvin Klein; vest top with lace trim, £35; blue cotton pyjama top (as part of set), £119, Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161)

When it comes to what to wear in bed, anything goes. Unless you prefer sleeping *au naturel*, there are outfits to suit any mood and most climates, from the simple, traditional nightie to flouncy layers of froth.

"Most women choose nightwear not only for its function but for their mood and personality," says Sophie Wildblood, of Knickerbox.

If you are seeking boudoir glamour or something for that special evening, ornate and sumptuously sexy silks are an obvious choice — but these styles tend not to be bought by the wearer. "Eighty per cent of silk purchases are gifts," says Wildblood.

Good-quality cotton is the most popular choice; it's cool and allows the skin to breathe in summer, but is cosy and soft for winter.

Phillip Regnault, the nightwear buyer for The White House, says its biggest-selling ranges are all cotton. "Because we have so many variations — from cotton jersey to cotton *crépon* and cotton voile — many different weights and textures can be achieved," he says. Fine jersey, for example, can be almost transparent and is perfect in body-hugging styles because it stretches well.

Cotton voile is even more delicate — "like a fine mist," Regnault says — and can look as expensive as silk.

If you prefer looser, more flowing styles that are luxurious, cotton *crépon* is ideal, because it has a similar drape to silk but is less slithery.

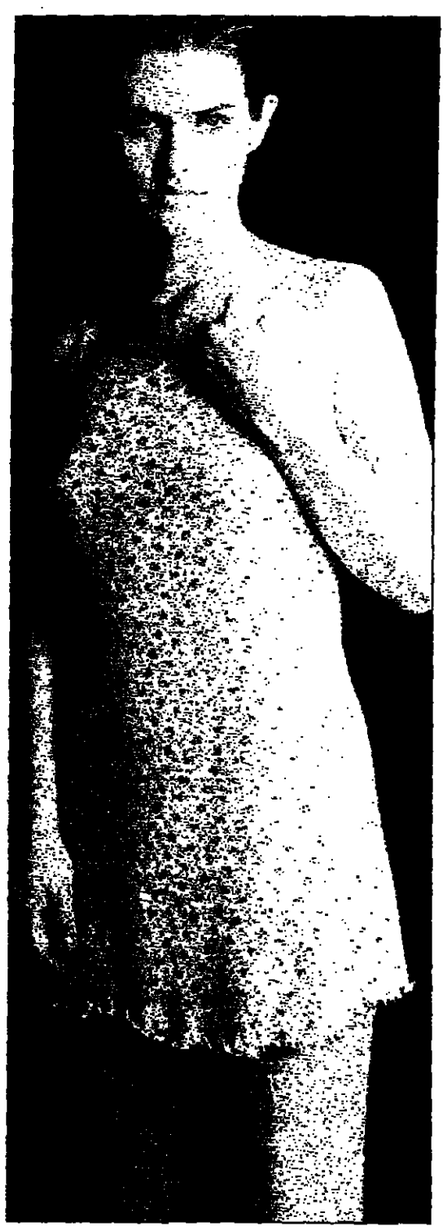
For most people, the simpler the style, the better. Gone are the days of elaborate, slightly vulgar silks with flower motifs and lacy edging. Today's favourites have minimal detailing or little ribbon trims. And they needn't be dress styles, either. Pyjamas are becoming increasingly popular — in pale colours, stripes and checks — particularly now that they are available in more feminine cuts and lightweight cotton. As well as being pretty, these are eminently sensible, providing good cover for padding around the house or curling up on a sofa.

Another advantage of the new range of nightwear is that it can be worn outdoors: simple camisole nighties have been seen about town worn as evening dresses, and T-shirt and shorts sets on the streets on Sunday mornings as sleepy owners nip out for the milk and newspapers.

"It is all about ease," Wildblood says. "The Nineties woman wants something that she can slip in and out of: pieces that are practical and beautiful in and out of doors."

Aesthetics are important, but you have to feel as good as you look, so comfortable nightwear is essential. After all, whether you are wearing tomboy boxers or a feminine slip, a regular good night between the sheets is what every girl wants.

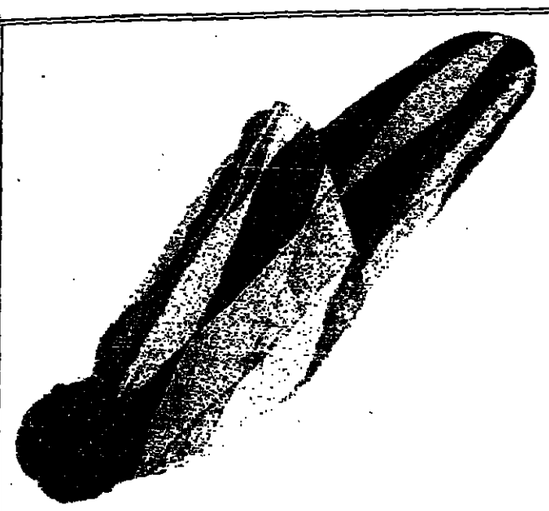




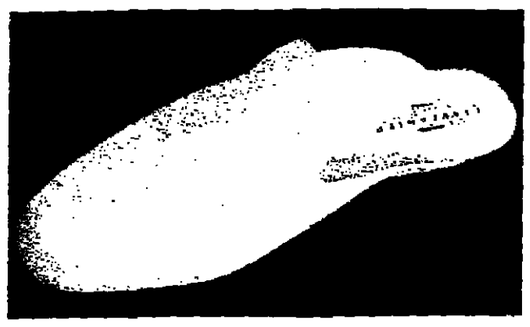
ABOVE: This lilac cotton T-shirt with matching drawstring shorts, £19.99, is available from Next, selected branches nationwide (01162 849424)
BELOW LEFT: Cream vest top with beige trim, £33; cream pyjamas, £60, available at Emporio Armani, 191 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-823 8188)

THREE OF A KIND

FORGET those impractical wedge mules and slouchy mocassins, the slippers to be seen in are simply designed and orientally inspired. Here are three of the best. H.B



Checked silk jester slippers, £39.50, Mulberry (0171-491 3900)



White velvet slippers, £35, Fenwick (0171-629 9161)



Sequinned Chinese slippers, £20, Paul Smith (0171-379 7133)

Sprig-print cotton jersey slip, £14.99, River Island, selected branches nationwide (0181-998 8822)

Photographs by **Richard Burns.**
Make-up by **Sally Kvalheim** for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774. Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q My compost box oozes a noxious-looking liquid. Is this any use as fertiliser, and at what dilution? — R.A.E. Hickson, Marton cum Grafton, Yorkshire.

A Use it as a fertiliser but diluted at not more than one part to ten parts water. Because this will be a highly nitrogenous fertiliser, be careful not to induce soft growth in plants with it late in the season; soft growth is always more susceptible to frost damage.

Q I want to fell a 40-year-old wild cherry which is making suckers all over the place, and then stop the suckers proliferating. What chemical can I use? — J. Gordon, Edinburgh.

A Cherries sucker for two reasons: they may have suffered mechanical damage to the roots from digging, or the main trunk may be starting to die. If you fell the tree, you will force prodigious energies into the suckers, which will probably get worse before they get better. However, if the tree must go, apply ammonium sulphamate (Root-Out) to the stump after felling. This must be done while the stump is fresh.

Q I have been unable to find a bulb supplier of the English *Iris xiphoides* after losing my collection when moving house. Can you help? — G.W. Somerville, Largs, Ayrshire.

A Why "English" iris? *Iris latifolia*, as *I. xiphoides* is now known, comes from the French and Spanish Pyrenees. It is an upright plant much like the florists' Dutch irises — which are hybrids of the Spanish *I. xiphium* and Moroccan *I. tingitana*, with a bit of the English iris thrown in. *I. latifolia* is available from Bob Brown's Cotswold Garden Flowers, 1 Waterside, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 6BS (tel/fax 01386 47337).

Q What has made the rhododendron I was given in full bloom last year such a total disaster this year. The buds remained like tight little balls, with only a couple flowering, and the stems have turned darkish brown. Will it recover? — L.E.C. Riches, Pinner, Middlesex.

A The buds, if they were dry and brown, have bud blast, a fungal infection best handled in a small plant by picking off and burning the damaged flower buds in spring. Or, it may be that your plant is enjoying its new home and rich soil is making new wood rather than flowers for a couple of years. Don't worry about browning stems. Fat new shoots may be green, but they will all become brown as the bark matures. If the leaves on the new shoots are browning too, then the shoots are dying, most probably from drought. Keep it well watered and wait to see how it fares next year, when it has had a season to settle down.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

After world affairs, the former Foreign Secretary turns to homely matters. **Jane Owen** reports

GILL ALLEN



Lord Carrington at the gates of his home in the Chilterns — ten acres of chalk-based land nurtured into a series of specific "rooms", complemented with a public garden

Lordly vista carved from chalk

Converts to gardening usually have memories of a childhood idyll, an Eden they want to recreate. Lord Carrington, now an accomplished gardener, looks blank when asked about childhood gardening memories, then says: "My father used to grow dahlias. Huge things the size of plates." There are no dahlias in the ten-acre garden he and his wife, Iona, have made at The Manor House in the Buckinghamshire village of Bledlow, near Princes Risborough. There are sweeps of lawn, flying hedges of pleached lime, hornbeam, garden rooms, water gardens and a sculpture garden — all elegant and classical — where once there was farm land.

ME AND MY GARDEN: LORD CARRINGTON

Gardening captured the Carringtons dramatically in 1967 when fire destroyed their tithe barn. "We looked out of our bedroom window in despair at the devastation. But then we became determined to get going on the garden. As a first step, we found a young, unknown designer. Robert Adam, who could not have had a better name," says Lord Carrington.

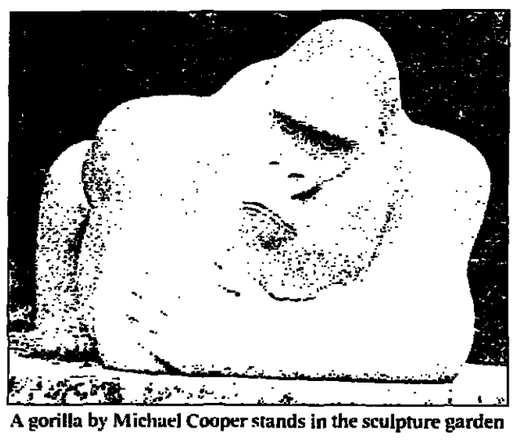
The Carringtons took to gardening with gusto. "We don't quarrel often — it is a partnership. My wife is interested in plants and colour and I am more interested in the layout," he says. He then proceeds to have a minor disagreement with his wife about an area they call St Peter's garden, a simple enclosure of yew and box, with a statue of St Peter (originally from the Houses of Parliament) dominating.

A longer-term disparity of views emerges over his garden schemes. "I had the bright idea of turning two-and-a-half acres of paddock into a new garden, but my wife didn't like the idea and said we already had enough garden. I said it would be a sculpture garden, but she said we didn't have any sculpture."

He got his sculpture garden. He invited five of the Royal College of Art's most promising students to lunch, gave them a tour of the garden and asked them to come up with ideas. The lunch bore fruit and today the sculpture garden — mostly planted with shrubs — is populated by non-figurative pieces, because Lord Carrington reckons that makes them less "steal-worthy".

All the sculptures invite a caress: three gourd-like shapes in granite by Peter Randall-Page, a smooth gorilla by Michael Cooper and an extraordinary piece, again by Randall-Page, in pink granite, like an egg cut in half to reveal a contoured inside. Patrick Barker's *Head over Heels* has two figures in foetal position, tumbling down a slope.

The garden was Lord Carrington's great solace when ministerial life was rough. "I used to come back here and take out my bile on the weeds," says the one-time Foreign Secretary who resigned during the Falklands War, later to become Secretary-General of Nato.



A gorilla by Michael Cooper stands in the sculpture garden

The couple have help in their battle against nature, being "450ft up on chalk" with muntjak deer and squirrel as pests, and the garden has an established air, partly due to their 33-year partnership with Robert Adam.

Their first project, a wide brick path, flanked with an unusual alley of viburnum cut into pompom shapes, was created to run from the house to a sunken rectangular pool garden. Around the edges of this garden are pyramids of rosemary, roses 'Pink Perpétué' and 'Golden Showers', the red stemmed *Rosa rubiginosa* and a red-flowered geranium. To the left is an alley of pleached limes and to the right a Hidcote-style pavilion, where the kitsch mementoes of Lord Carrington's time as Foreign Secretary are on display: gifts of hideous taste, such as awful wood carvings and shell-encrusted souvenirs.

Hidcote, Lawrence Johnston's garden in Gloucestershire, run by the National Trust, is the one garden Lord Carrington quotes as an influence. He also, eventually, admits one parental influence — his father's love of vegetable gardens. "It is satisfying the way they are so regimental and pretty and just waiting to be eaten," he says.

In the walled vegetable garden, Mophead apples and long hornbeam hedges give internal structure and the main paths make a cruciform. Herb beds, marked out by low hedges into rectangles, are filled with hyssop, sweet cicely, parsley, sage and mace, with beans, peas, strawberries and rhubarb in the main beds. Beyond the vegetable garden, around the swimming pool, are planted tubs, filled in spring with daffodils and tulips. This blaze of colour is offset by a series of cool, yew-enclosed gardens. A blue-and-yellow garden was created in another of the yew rooms, with great swaths of potentilla, lavender, rosemary and roses.

Across another sweep of lawn at the back of the house, some black-lined, formal, rectangular pools mark the end of the garden and the beginning of the sculpture garden, which is heralded by a 6ft-tall formal geometric topiary garden, planted six years ago and guarded by a topiary griffin.

Finally, in a steep-sided valley, across the road from the main garden and below the village church, there is the Lyde Garden, made by Lord Carrington and given to the public by him. The one-and-a-half-acre garden was scooped out of a wilderness, and five springs trickle from the valley to form the Lyde which runs, via the River Thame, into the Thames.

This area was formerly used to grow watercress, and the Carringtons had a job getting rid of the stuff. Today, one of its main problems is blanket weed, which they keep in check with netted bundles of barley straw, placed so the water flows through them into the main pools.

Dazzling yellow hoods of skunk cabbage trace the course of the streams and, at the centre of one of a series of descending pools, an ornamental birdcage makes an eyecatcher.

The garden is open to the public, though some objectors say it should have been left in its natural state. Today it is a mass of luxuriant planting: tree ferns, gunnera, hosta, ferns, pink-flowered *Hibiscus syriacus* 'William R. Smith', *Senecio greyi*, willows, bamboos, the palm *Carpenteria californica*, *Lonicera nitida*, and a steep slope planted with box cut into an undulating sculptural shape. Lord Carrington is surely the master of the understatement when he says: "I had fun doing it."

Romantic Cornish rhapsody

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ Lanhydrock near Bodmin, Cornwall (01208 73320).

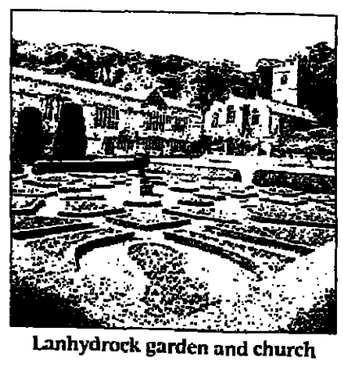
Two-and-a-half miles southeast of Bodmin. Open daily until Nov 2 from 10am-7pm. £3 (free to National Trust members).

The National Collection of crocosmias is held here, along with an excellent showing of magnolias. The setting is romantic, with a stream running through the 30-acre parkland down to the River Fowey. The formal area is punctuated by huge, cone-shaped clipped yews and, farther away from the house, there are peaceful woodland walks.

Turn End Townside, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire (01844 291383/291817).

Between Thame and Aylesbury off the A418. Open for the National Gardens Scheme on Sept 14 but at other times for groups by appointment only. £1.50.

The house and garden were created by its owner, the architect Peter Aldington, who has made a one-acre landscape go a long way, with arches leading through to secret gardens, a gravel garden, a courtyard and a pond area. It is a remarkable modern garden where the house and garden meld effortlessly together. Many young designers rate this as a blueprint for a modern garden with staying power.



Lanhydrock garden and church

■ Castle Howard, North Yorkshire (01653 648333).

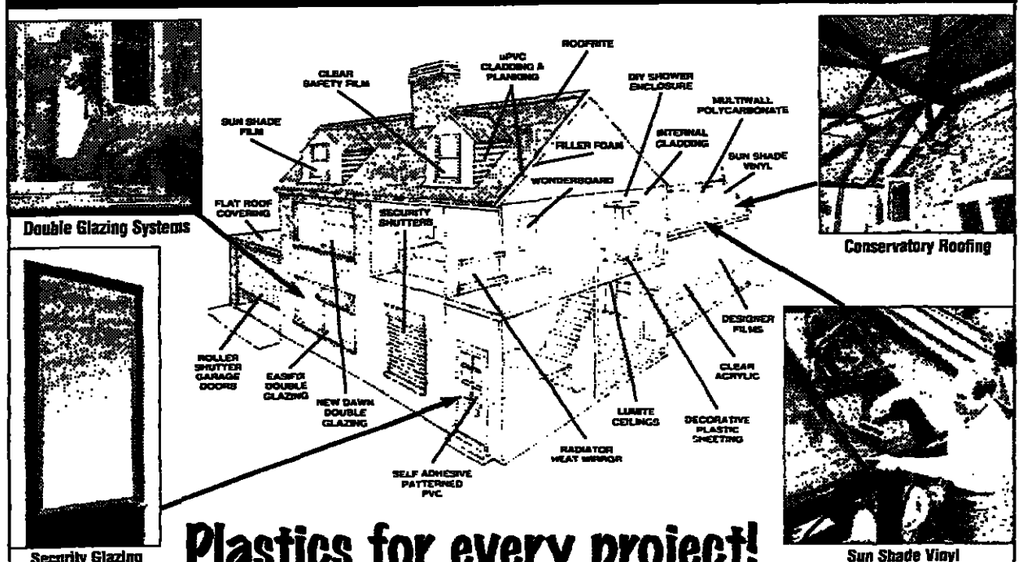
Five miles southwest of Malton. Open daily 10am-4.30 until Nov 2. £4.

The Royal Botanic Garden at Kew in southwest London has formed the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust to manage the important trees in part of the park, a 40-acre woodland known as Ray Wood. The impressive landscape surrounding the magnificent 18th-century house — the setting for the television series *Brideshead Revisited* — was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor with a typically vast Nesfield water fountain (depicting Atlas and Tritons) and is worth a visit at any time of year, particularly in spring for its spectacular range of rhododendrons, collected originally by Joseph Hooker, Frank Kingdon Ward, George Forrest and Reginald Farrer. In the flower gardens labelling is usually good, and there are spectacular rose areas with about 2,000 plants, mostly old-fashioned and standard.

JANE OWEN

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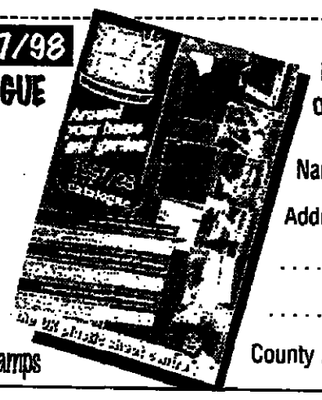
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Natural born thrillers

Sue Corbett on luring wildlife into your garden

The UK's most acrobatic garden animal, the grey squirrel, may strip your bark and gobble your rosebuds, but there are gardeners prepared to forgive its bad habits for its entertainment value.

"Give it a tree and it hangs by its toes, like a trapeze artist. Give it two trees, and there will be the most amazing bravura leaps from one to the other," says Joan Reeve, whose town-centre garden in Eastbourne, East Sussex, boasts a magnificent 90ft-high squirrel racetrack, otherwise known as a copper beech.

"Luckily for us, the squirrels eat the beech mast," she says, "which does make mowing the lawn a little easier, but of course they also eat bulbs and food on the bird table, and dig holes in the lawn."

But distract them from the bulbs by a spread of peanuts on a special squirrel table and make a separate bird table squirrel-proof in any of the ingenious ways recommended by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and you may find the little rodents have become almost garden-trained.

Not enough for some garden-lovers, of course, as Inspector Steve Kourik, wildlife liaison officer for Hertfordshire Police, has found. "People do ask me about legal means of control, and I have to advise against shooting as it is almost impossible to shoot safely in a garden, especially at a target that's higher than you are.

"Poisoning is a possibility, but you have to make sure the poison goes in a special squirrel hopper so that nothing else can get at it. And you must remember that, if a poisoned squirrel is taken by, say, an owl, the owl could ingest the poison, and nobody wants this."

The few red squirrels remaining in Britain do not attract such opprobrium as the greys. On the Isle of Wight, where there are about 1,500 reds, supporters have even stretched a rope bridge 18ft above the busy B3330 to prevent the squirrels winding up as road casualties. It has been a 100 per cent success to date, according to Helen Butler, the Isle of Wight's Red Alert Project Officer.

"The reds are much prettier than the greys — small and delicate and with fluffy ear tufts. And they're unbelievably agile. They'll even try something stupid such as climbing up a greenhouse. Mind you, they have got a bit of a temper — they swear at you — but there aren't enough of them to do great damage to the trees."



The blue tit will eat your aphids

Newts may gladden many gardeners' hearts by eating their slugs, but it's for aesthetic reasons that actor and satirist John Wells appreciates them. "They're very, very beautiful," he says, "like little dinosaurs." His pond at Plumpton, East Sussex, which he restored with the help of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, is now home to about 100 great crested newts, grown out of the 14 he rescued eight years ago from an endangered site. "They drift up and take insects from the top," he says. People say you ought to have fish in a pond, but it's a much more genuine David Attenborough-style pleasure watching newts.

"Another wonderful thing," he adds, "is to have swallows drinking out of the pond — it's one of the greatest pleasures of the year."

And it is not only swallows that are attracted to water. All garden birds appreciate a bird bath, or a pond with shallow edges they can walk into. Some, such as the blue tit, will repay gardeners' thoughtfulness by eating their aphids and beech mast. Nest boxes will make blue tits feel more welcome still, says the RSPB, and also accommodate other birds, such as great and coal tits, nuthatches, starlings and house martins.

Goldfinches can also be hugely entertaining in the garden — they have even been trained to use their feet to pull in food suspended on a string, loop by loop. They tuck into chickweed and dandelion seed, too.

Ponds will also entice bats, which do gardeners a favour by eating mosquitoes and putting on aerobatic displays to match those of the swallows. To encourage the insects they feed on, grow night-scented plants such as sweet rocket, honeysuckle and evening primrose, or turn on a garden light at dusk.

"Build a pond almost anywhere and you'll get dragonflies," says Ruary Mackenzie Dodds, who fell so heavily for them that he started dragonfly open days at Ashton Mill, near Oundle, Northamptonshire. "And the more types of water plant you put in, the more types of dragonfly you're likely to attract. Their amazing combination of grace and agility is the thing that gets me.

If you've got the time to sit by your pond on a sunny day (the best time is between midday and 2pm), you can see all this, as well as mating and fighting." And if you enjoy sitting out, you'll be pleased to know that mosquito larvae are a favourite meal for dragonflies.

Dragonfly: amazingly graceful

- *Red Squirrel Fact Sheet (send £1 for p&p) from the Mammal Society (0171-498 4358).*
- *Planting Gardens for Birds, and other leaflets, free from the RSPB (01767 680551).*
- *Dragonfly open days at weekends at Ashton Mill, Ashton Wold, Ashton, near Oundle, Northamptonshire, until September 28, 10.30am-5pm (01832 272427).*



PLANET EARTH

Red squirrel: "They are much prettier than the greys – small, delicate and unbelievably agile"



- Make cuttings of roses, using pieces 9in long and finger-thick. Set them two-thirds into the ground, in a narrow trench lined with sand, in half-shade. The cuttings will callus over during winter and root during the spring. If they are rooted by mid-March, move them to final positions then. Otherwise wait until next autumn.
- Sow lawn seed into well-prepared, fine soil which has been lightly dressed with fertiliser. Roll lightly when 1in high and, when it has grown again, top it off lightly with the mower set at 2in. Only one or two cuts before winter will be required. Short mowing can commence next spring.
- When frost threatens, pull up and pick outdoor tomatoes. Ripen the last fruits indoors in a conservatory or on a window ledge. Ripen melons in frames by keeping the temperature up.
- When summer bedding plants are spent, take them up and compost them. Dig over and lightly feed beds intended for wallflowers, which will be available for planting shortly, in bare-rooted bundles. Nine-inch slips of perennial wallflowers, such as the ever-flowering Bowles Mauve, will root if pushed into the ground now in a shady place.
- Prune wall-trained peaches, nectarines and cherries, cutting out some of the fruited shoots and tying in replacements. Late plums should have any necessary pruning completed as soon as the fruit is picked, to avoid infection with silver leaf.
- Stretch netting over ponds if you wish to keep out autumn leaves. Clear the net of leaves regularly.

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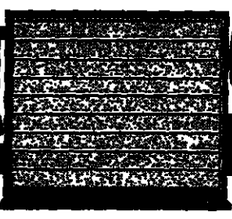
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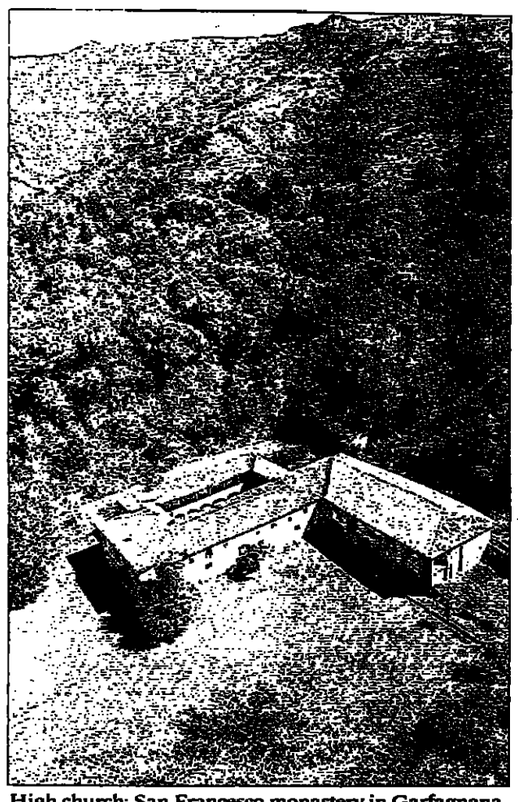
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House of the week: devotion and hard cash are needed to restore a Tuscan retreat, writes **Erica Wagner**



High church: San Francesco monastery in Garfagnana, built in the 15th century and uninhabited for 40 years



DES JENSON

A blue Tuscan sky crowns the courtyard (above). The focal point of the building is a two-storey gallery which overlooks it, and decaying frescoes (below) adorn its walls

A task to test a saint

These days, it's customary to check that you can be connected to the water mains before you build your house. But in 1435 things were different, and the Frate Ercolano — a small group of Tuscan monks led by the miracle-working Beato Ercolano — went ahead and built their monastery, San Francesco, on top of a hill in the Garfagnana without any certainty of a water source.

It seemed as if the 30-celled retreat with its double-galleried courtyard might be uninhabitable, a monument not to devotion but folly. But the Beato set himself to pray and lo — just as the monks desired, a clear spring appeared from the side of the mountain. If only all plumbing problems could be so miraculously solved.

The Beato's prayers might come in handy for a buyer taking on San Francesco. After a winding, hairpin drive up the green-gold hillside, you reach the property's gate and wall — the entire 5-hectare site is enclosed. The place was last inhabited by monks in 1798, when it was sacked by French troops; the chapel behind was pulled down in about 1800. After that it served as a farm, but has been uninhabited for the past 40 years, and the lack of care is beginning to show.

It would take a lot more than weather damage and neglect for a building of the stony solidity of San Francesco to fall down; but parts of the building seem well on the way. From the outside the monastery has an eyeless aspect, where windows have been bricked up to deter squatters. Inside, where long corridors surround the upstairs tier of the courtyard, many of the rooms are in too precarious a state to enter. The rose-painted plaster that covers the barrel-vaulted ceiling of one hallway makes a hard hat a must: one of the larger cells — some of which are cupboard-sized and windowless to facilitate concentrated prayer — is missing nearly all of its terracotta floor. From this second floor a fine stone stairway leads down to the courtyard: but its romanesque arch is propped up by an RSJ and none of us felt inclined to go too near.





The great strength of this property is its beautiful double-storey courtyard — quiet as the cloister it once was — with a blue square of Tuscan sky overhead. On the walls are decaying frescoes of popes and saints — clearly not original but not new either, and some appear to have even older work underneath. But these too are crumbling, and scrawled over with graffiti: the monastery even now is used as a place for local festivals. But the courtyard, the focus of the monastery's elaborate drainage system, is steeply sloped: tables and chairs set out for an evening might make guests feel drunk before they'd had a drop. Off the yard in the refectory there are photographs of parties held here in the 1920s and 1930s, men in stiff collars and women in dropped-waist shifts leaning against the painted walls.

There is no doubt that this is a place of some beauty — although its hillside site, by Tuscan standards, is not extraordinary. There is no doubt that this is a property of architectural interest — there are not many 15th-century monasteries up for sale. But the price is £700,000, and bringing the property up to scratch would probably set you back another £2 million. Some months ago I viewed a magnificent 16th-century castle not far from Grosetto, in splendid shape, complete with 500 acres of woods, fields and vineyards and with five farmhouses also on the land, on offer for £3.7 million. This makes San Francesco look very costly indeed.

Paddy Dring of Knight Frank admits that Tuscan property is expensive, and guesses that a similar property might cost as much as 50 per cent less were it in less fashionable Umbria to the south. "This isn't a normal market," he says. "You're looking for a specific buyer: someone who wants something unique. Financially, if you take this on and restore it, you will be in the league of any house in Tuscany — the margins will still be there."

All this because Tuscany is, for the moment, the fashionable place to be. Islington di Garfagnana. Tuscany, too, is closer to Florence and Pisa and their airports, making commuting back to the real Islington so much easier. But it would be a brave soul who undertook the restoration of San Francesco; the Italian family selling it apparently has neither the heart nor the finances. At the end of the day — or, more realistically, a couple of years — it would still be a property with long corridors and small cells, whose lovely slants of light might not compensate for its eccentricity. It was built for prayer and contemplation: one wonders how inclined towards that life a modern buyer might be.

■ *Agents: Knight Frank 0171-629 8171.*

HOMESWAP

DESPITE rising house prices, there are still some areas that offer better value than others. Some of the best property buys can be found south of the capital, just nudging Kent. A terraced three-bedroom Victorian house near Bromley South station (20 minutes from Victoria) can be found for under £100,000, a studio flat in a 1960s' block in St. Mary Cray for £32,000.

In East Sussex, the area around the medieval hill-top cinque port town of Rye is cheap and good value. It is at least two hours from Rye to Waterloo, via Ashford or Hastings, which rules out most London commuters; second-home buyers remain the driving force. Pretty seaside and country cottages here sell quickly, priced from £80,000 to £120,000

Empty-nesters from the south, priced out of the Cotswolds, are moving farther north and west to Herefordshire in search of better value.

Black and white timbered cottages and detached bungalows in the countryside around Hereford, priced from £70,000, are selling fast to retirement home buyers.



About £87,000 will buy you a 99-year lease on a one-bedroom flat in a newly converted character building, on the outskirts of Crockenhill, near Swanley, Kent. (JDM, 01689 819819.)



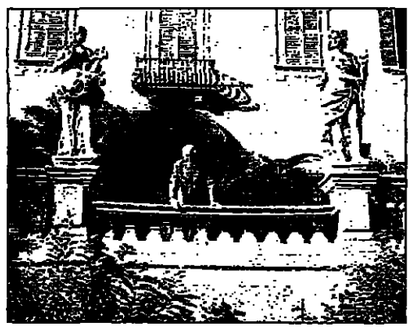
In Herefordshire, £85,000 will stretch to Snowdrop Cottage, three-bedrooms, set in a large garden, in the small hamlet of Ashton, near Leominster. (Bill Jackson, 01568 610600.)



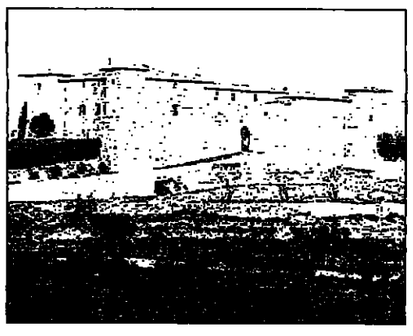
Or you could buy The Legacy, a detached, two-bedroom late Victorian house at The Point, Rye Harbour, East Sussex, for £85,000. (Phillips & Stubbs, 01797 227338).

CHERYL TAYLOR

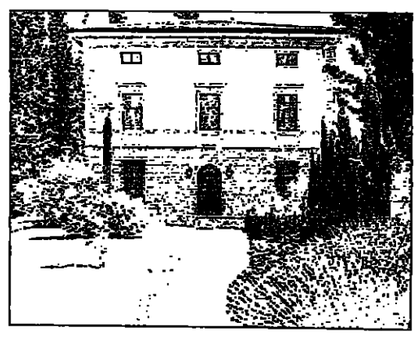
DREAM HOMES IN TUSCANY



THE LATE Sir Harold Acton CBE once lived in a 60-room Renaissance villa in the village of La Pietra, overlooking Florence. The property — including his extensive art collection could fetch upwards of £100,000. It has five smaller villas and is set in 57 acres of ornamental gardens, vineyards, olive groves and farmland.



GRAHAM C GREENE CBE, publisher and nephew of writer Graham Greene, resides in Castello di Montepo, a restored 16th-century castle surrounded by 1,000 acres of woodland, farmland, vineyards and olive groves, near Scansano. The property, which is valued at £3.85 million, also possesses an 18th-century chapel.



GEOFFREY ROBINSON MP, the Paymaster General, owns an estate situated on a hill among vineyards, near San Gimignano. The 18-century, neo-classical house frequented by the Prime Minister and his family for the second year running, also has a large swimming pool and a private medieval village.

PROPERTY PROFILE: ESSEX

Attractions: the county has moved on since its 1980s image as home to the "Essex man" and "Essex woman". Commuters are drawn by good rail links into London — Colchester to Liverpool Street can take 40 minutes — and the A12, M11 and the A120 which is being made into a dual carriageway between Braintree and the M11. Stansted airport is a bonus.

Hotspots: coastal areas such as Maldon and Burnham lure the boat owners, while historic Colchester is said to be England's oldest town, suffering the attacks of the warrior Queen Boadicea around AD 60. The Stour Valley, along the Essex-Suffolk border, known as Constable country, is a spot favoured by house-hunters and was home to Gainsborough. The corridors between the M11, A10 and A12 are the real hotspots, says the agent Mullucks Wells in Saffron Walden, including villages such as Clavering and Great Chesterford.

The market: prime prices have risen by about 10-12 per cent this year, says Strutt & Parker in Chelmsford. Savills in Chelmsford reports lack of supply, with 25 properties on their books compared with 105 at the end of the recession. City types with big bonuses fuel the market, says Mullucks Wells, and Savills reckons they make up 65 per cent of purchases over £500,000.

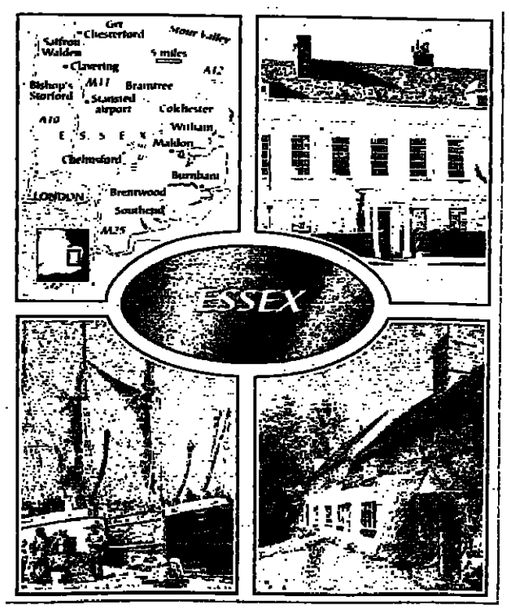
Prices fell by 30-40 per cent during the recession, says Fenn Wright in Colchester. Prices have now reached 1988 levels and in some cases exceeded them.

Expect to pay: prices in undervalued and less commutable northeast Essex can differ by as much as 100 per cent from those in the more desirable southwest. Savills says. Detached cottages, whose prices have just started to recover, go for £150,000 to £200,000 in the northeast, compared with £160,000 to £220,000 in the southwest; farmhouses with some land £275,000 to £375,000 compared with £300,000 to £400,000 further south; and a medium-size country house £500,000-plus compared with £700,000-plus.

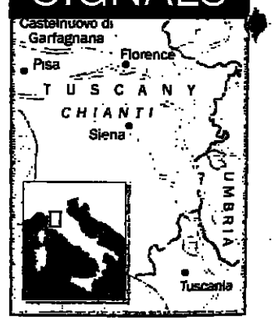
Significant sale: Grade II-listed Barnardiston House, an old people's home at Chipping Hill, near the sought-after village of Witham, was on and off the market for 18 months while the owners tried to sell it as a going concern. The six-bedroom Georgian house eventually sold as a private home in June through Strutt & Parker for well over £200,000.

Outlook: good for the immediate future, says Fenn Wright. Mullucks Wells believes a few more properties will come on to the market this autumn. Strutt & Parker expects more gradual increases, with supply beginning to even out.

AMANDA LOOSE



MARKET SIGNALS



Tuscany

STERLING'S strength stands British buyers in great stead in Italy, with an exchange rate of about L2,900 to the pound. To set this in context, two years ago the house featured would have cost a British buyer nearer £800,000.

Prices remain pretty stable and the choice of restored properties has improved, but the idealised 17th- or 18th-century farmhouse, amid a few acres, was built for a family of 15-20 living in a few rooms, so you'll be paying for five or six bedrooms.

For the top end of the market in Chianti, expect anything from £600,000 to £4 million. Outside Chianti, prices are up to 30 per cent lower. Away from the prime region, £200,000 will buy a restored house with three or four bedrooms and a bit of land but no pool. In next-door Umbria, the same could be found for £120,000. The promise of international status for Perugia's airport from the year 2,000 has increased interest in that area.

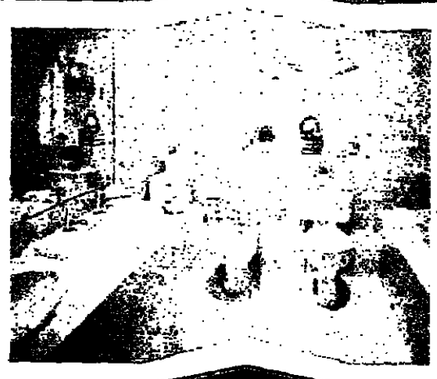
OTHER relatively affordable Tuscan options include the under-exploited village house market, where you would find a house for £150,000-£200,000. Unrestored houses can be found, especially away from Chianti. At about £360 a sq m, a 300 sq m property to convert to a four-bedroom home will cost about £105,000.

Taxes and charges generally total 10-12 per cent of the sale price. They include purchase tax, levied at 11 per cent of the *registered* value for urban property and 18 per cent for rural property. The notary's fee is about 1 per cent of the registered sale price; agent's commission 3 per cent.

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Hampton, Middlesex Price range £95,000 to £300,000
Hampton Green. An attractive new development of period style 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses and 1 bedroom apartments by St James Homes in a village green setting. *(just released)*

Roehampton, London SW15 £1.2m
Pembroke House, Roehampton Gate. A distinguished classically styled 5 bedroom detached house of character situated behind electric gates in this prestigious location adjacent to Richmond Park.

Cookham, Berkshire £365,000
Larkfields. Two substantial traditionally styled 4 bedroom family houses featuring two en-suite bathrooms and electrically operated garage doors, situated in a quiet location midway between the M4 and M40.

KENT 01959 561499

Canterbury £82,000 to £115,000
St Dunstan's Gate. This established site has been designed to include an array of varying styles and ranges of accommodation. Currently, there are 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses, all with off-street parking.

Westerham £355,000
Holcombe, London Road. Located just outside the centre of Westerham is this 5 bedroom detached property, with planning permission currently awaited for a 3 bedroom bungalow and a replacement dwelling.

NORTH LONDON 01474 [illegible]

Harrow on the Hill From £394,950
Grosvenor Place. A delightful development of 5 town houses providing 4 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and 3 bathrooms, 2 of which are en-suite.

SURREY 01932 576500

Haslemere £225,000
Old Mill Place. Set amidst the Surrey hills, two luxury bungalows each comprising three bedrooms, en-suite facilities, separate drawing room/dining room and double garage. View unit fully carpeted, fitted fireplace, lighting and landscaping.

Weybridge £367,500 to £379,950
The Marstons, Eglise Road. Three detached five bedroom family homes in a quiet cul-de-sac location close to the village centre. Each property comprises 3/4 reception rooms, designer fitted kitchen, en-suite facilities and double garage.

Cheam £895,000
Cuddington Grange, The Drive. A rarely available executive home overlooking the 11th hole at Cuddington Golf Course. The property comprises 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, games room and triple garage all set within a plot of three quarters of an acre.

Wimbledon Guide £1m to £1.25m
Oaklands Park, Bathgate Road. An exclusive development of 13 luxury detached homes in the prime residential area of Wimbledon Village.

Kingswood £825,000
Marden House, Beech Drive. Two luxury detached 5 bedroom properties in the sought after village of Kingswood. Both properties are south facing and have gardens approaching half an acre. *(only one remaining)*

Walton on Thames £99,950 to £650,000
Victoria Gate, Queens Road. An exciting new development providing apartments in a refurbished building, a refurbished chapel into two cottages and newly built detached and terraced houses.

OXFORD 01235 539111

Oxford £118,500 to £282,500
Waterside. In central north Oxford, a unique development of classically designed homes within a mile of the city centre and on the edge of Jericho. Adjoining the Oxford canal and close to Port Meadow and the River Thames, 2 bedroom apartments and 4 bedroom houses. Arranged in avenues, elegant crescents, garden squares and landscaped courtyards. New View home opening 13th September.

Stanford in the Vale from £199,950
Holybrook. An exciting range of 4 and 5 bedroom houses in the Conservation Area of this pretty village, convenient for both Oxford and Swindon and within easy reach of glorious downland countryside. Sales Centre Now Open. Over 40% sold.

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MARKET SIGNALS

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NORTH OF THE THAMES

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GREAT ROOF GARDEN
Overlooking Hyde Park
Secluded luxury penthouse. Top 2 floors of p/b block. 3lf, 2 beds, 2 bath (1 ens), kitchen, dining room, drawing room. Porter, secure garage space. Underground 5 mins. Lease 61yrs renewable. Offers over £475,000.
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RIVERSIDE FLAT FULHAM.
Overlooking Hurlingham Club and close Harbour Club. Exclusive new development, just completed and ready for occupation. 2 beds, en-suite bathrooms, inx kit with all integrated appliances, cloak, recep with lge SW facing terrace. Secure s/g parking. 10yr NHBC very. Video entry. Easy access City/West End. Putney Bdge Stn 10 mins. Sale sadly due to unexpected relocation. 999 year lease.
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DETACHED Gothic artists studio house 2 bed, gdn. P/B £425,000 Anthon Estates 0171 589 9199

GREAT PORTLAND STREET, W1. Luxury 2 bed 2 bath top floor flat in prime location close Regents Pk. Must sell £274,950 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

HARLEY HOUSE Ranglagh Park. A beautiful recently refur. 5th flr apt in this prestigious mansion blk., 24hr porterage & security, drawing rm, dining rm, 4 beds, 2 baths, wc, fl&b, utility rm. 2,454 sq.ft. gdns £810,000. Tel: 0171 734 8734.

REGENTS PARK, NW1. (Albany) 240 Hanel newly refurb 2 bed 2 bath flat in Crown Est, £195k. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

ST JOHNS WOOD, NW8 Stunning 1 bedroom garden flat in period conversion close to tube. Share of Freehold £165,000. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

ST JOHNS WOOD, NW8. 2 bed flat in luxury period block with porter & gardens. Guide £125-140,000. Tel. 0171 586 0198

MAIDA VALE W9
Ground floor flat in purpose built block. Manor House Court, Warrington Gardens. Entrance hall, reception room 19ft 14ft, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, separate guest W.C., inner hall way, communal patio/garden area. 120 year Lease.
£155,000 Priced to Sell.
0171 286 5524.

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

CRYSTAL Pal Pde Mod 1st flr 2 dbl bed flt. PGCH dbl gls gge pds. Nr Rly/bus. Cby/Bmd 0181 761 9986, £66,950.

BARLS FIELD 3 dbl bed house. 17ft rfr kit, lovely 50ft gdn. £189,950. Tel: 0181 870 7844

LESSAR AVENUE, SW4. 3 storey, 4 bedrm mid-terraced house with gdn. nr Clapham Common. P/B £210,000. Ludlow Thompson 0171 820 0123

LOFT SPACE, SE17. Just reclaimed, huge shell finish loft-style apts within converted Victorian warehouse & pub in historic Surrey Sq. Bicker/beams/ terraces. 1,000 sqft - 2,650 sqft. Prices from £95k. Michael Kellner & CO 0171 403 0400

SW18 EARLSFIELD Stones throw from Wandsworth Common. A double bedrm ground floor flat with patio garden & shed. Wooden floors throughout, GCH, tf kitchen, bathroom. Huge reception. Exterior security lighting. Parking. Long lease (Purchaser of Freehold Available) £126,000 ono. Tel: 0181 870 1463.

WEST PURLEY CR8, Adjacent to Webb Estate, 7 mins to mainline stn. Interesting, bright, split level hse in narrow gdn. 4 bed, 2 bath, 1 ens, 3 rec, kitchen, utility, dble gge, loft. £275,000 ino. 0181 6486627

WILKINSON ST. SW8. A 4 bedrm, 3 storey period house + cottage + balcony in sought after location in the Oval. P/B £315,000. Ludlow Thompson 0171 820 0123

PUTNEY
Conservation area opposite Bishops Hall, semi-detached 4 bed home, recently renovated but keeping original features, period fireplaces and log burning stove, 2 receptions, FF kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, 2nd garden, GCH, excellent transport facilities.
£385,000 for quick sale.
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Family house, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, large light kitchen/breakfast room, utility & cellar. 2 bedrooms currently as 1st floor Drawing Room overlooking park & river. Shaker Kitchen, beech floors, Gas Central Heating. Small tranquil south facing garden. Freehold.
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In Conservation area close to Clapham Junction.
2 bed Victorian Cottage, stunningly converted. Large reception room, conservatory-kitchen, enormous loft bedroom, bathroom. South facing patio gardens. Residential parking.
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Price: £210,000.
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CLERKENWELL EC1 2 bed flat nr Barton Gdn. 3rd flr. lge roof terrace. £215,000 Hustler Savi Carr 0171 250 1012.

GEE STREET EC1 Freehold building with consent for 3 bed house. £225,000. Hustler Savi Carr 0171 250 1012.

REDE PLACE W2 Mews house, 4 rms, living rm, 1½ bath, kit, 2 garages. £340,000 freehold 0171 2114811.

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FOLGATE ST Nr Bromigate & Liverpool St. Developments. 1 bed apt, own entrance, £145,000 L/B 0171 480 6815

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WAPPING Warehouse conversion 2nd/3rd reception, 2 beds, bathroom + shwr rm, parking. £245,000 L/B 0171 480 6815

WAPPING Overlooking canal 2 bed apt, parking £132,000. L/B 0171 480 6815

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Close to Canary Wharf.
Outstanding 3 bed mews. riverside apt. Boasts all 4 rooms, (270 deg. views), powder room, 24hr security, iconic 18th. Beech floors/ marble/ granite. Immaculate. £364,000 (or let £685pw).
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Luxury duplex apt in prestigious development. 2/3 bdrms with 2 bdrms, 1 en-suite. Large reception & hallway with spiral staircase. Fully fit kit. Superb roof terrace & balcony. Secure s/gmd pkg. £325,000.
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BISHOPS PK, SW6 split level 3 bed, 2 bath mnds. FF kitch/diner, shared 50ft gdn. L/B £195,000 0171 381 0806.

RIVERSIDE FLAT See North of the Thames.

SW6 Lge 3 bed Vic family hse in v good road, conservatory to gdn £265,000 0171 736 6110 t

HIGHBURY/ ISLINGTON

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EARLS CRT SQ. SW5 1st flr 4 bed, 2 bath, dble recep & balcony o/looking comm gdns £625,000 L/E. Anscy & Lewis 0171 244 9911 T, 244 9588 F

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OIRO £1,750,000
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Unusual, spacious & light lower ground flat with private entrance. Living room with patio & sky light. Large dining hall, master bedroom with dressing room & en-suite bathroom, 2nd double bedroom, guest WC, utility room, storage vault. 1,300 sq ft. Lease 28 yrs. Ground rent £27.
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VICTORIAN
cottage for sale in Great Missenden High Street. 2 double bedrooms plus 1 single or study. Secluded garden. In need of some modernisation hence asking price of £125,000 for remaining 44 years of 400 year lease.
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TOWN HOUSE(1970). 10mins Cambridge City. 4 good beds, 1 ensuite, reception, fitted kitchen, bath, cloaks, garage. Garden. Close shops, school, golf. £99,000 including some fittings. 01954 780078.

CORNWALL

CORNWALL
CLOSE LANDS END
Detached character Cornish granite property - present run as Hotel, but ideal private 7 bed residence + 2 cottages. 6 car garage. Set in 1 acre. Extensive views of Western Approaches.
Freehold price:
£225,000
Tel/Fax: 01736 871280

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BIBURY Nr. Cirencester. Listed 3 bed cottage with small garden. Offers in excess of £150,000. Tel:01285 860291

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A Grade II * Listed Jacobian Townhouse, close to the centre of this historic market town. Previously in multiple occupation. Now required refurb for unique home or conversion. Permission for 4 residential units.
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Gilyard Scarth
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A versatile cottage of period origins exceptionally situated on high ground near the village centre with outstanding south-west facing views and delightful mature garden.
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KENT

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BEARSTEAD, KENT A beautiful Grade II listed family house of gracious proportions together with a modernised 2 bedroom cottage. Opportunity to acquire (by separate negotiation) the Lordship of the Manor. Price on Application. Contact Andrew Harwood, GA Town & Country, Maidstone (01622) 765 241

KENT

RURAL Retreat. Charming 2 bed det 17C Cottage. Quiet village on North Downs nr Canterbury. £122,000. Tel: 01227 709215

MAIDSTONE Stunning split level property with extensive river frontage and wonderfully wooded gardens. The extensive accommodation is versatile and could be split to accommodate a self contained annexe. Contact Andrew Harwood - GA Town & Country, Telephone Maidstone (01622) 765241.

BROOK
Nr. ASHFORD.
Unique position under North Downs Nature Reserve, 6 miles Ashford Intern. Stn. Grade II listed XVIIc House & superb restored Barn. House: 3/4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 lge public rooms w. inglenook, dining-room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom. Many unusual features. Specialist Garden w. stream in front of house. 2 Paddocks. 9 acres in all.
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NORTHANTS/Leics border. 10 minutes to A1 M1 link road. 15 minutes to BR station-50 minutes to ST Pancras Station. 2 plots consisting of small development surrounded by fields. 6 beds, lounge, dining, fitted kitchen, utility. 3 baths 2 en-suite, feature fireplaces, gas central heating, block paved drives, fully treed gardens, fantastic value, £68 per sq ft. Plot 2 £165,000. Plot 3 £130,000. Must be seen. Ring 01536 761445 (daytime) 01536 763887 (evenings) for details.

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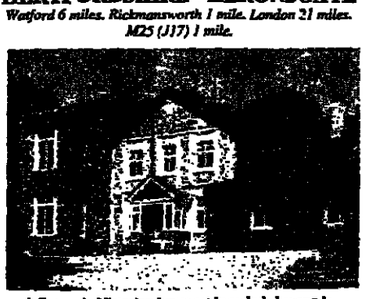
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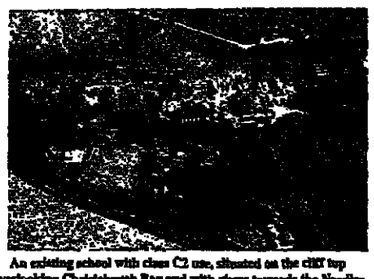
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or 0033 5 46833014

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PIMLICO 2 dble bd 2 bth hghly rec new decor fit kit w/m/d garden unfurn £210pw 1st flr furn £220pw. 07050 616 197:

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ST JOHNS WD. Immaculate 4 bed 3 recep 2 bath townhouse. Cal dir sec. £1,150pw. 0171 794 6702 / 0956 286272

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BELSIZE PARK NW3 Lux furn 2 dble bed p/b flat fit kit dble rec £330pw. 07050 616 197 :

CHELSEA Lux lge 3bd 2 dbl 1 sgl FF nr Tube 24hr port £350pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

CHISWICK W4. 2 bed terr hse f/furn, new decor, gdn, quiet, n/s. £325pw. 0181 994 3912

CITY Lux lge 1+2 bd FF sec pkg port near Tube. £250-400pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

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SW1 Pimlico, lux, 2 bd, 2 bth, flt in square, all mod cons, quiet & secure, f/furn £230pw 01638 731268/0850 880450

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SW11
2 BEDROOM LUXURY FURNISHED FLAT.
Southside, overlooking the Thames. Superb Views. 24hr Porter. 10 mins from tube. Garage parking. Vacant from end Sept 97. Minimum period 1yr. Rent £400Opcm. No pets.
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HARTLEY WINTNEY, Hants. 5 bedroom 3 bathroom, Large conservatory 2 en-suite. £1,895pcm. 01252 842796

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SOMERSET, YEOVIL 2.5 MILES
A stone and thatched character property comprising semi detached cottage, former workshop and carpenters and wheelwright's workshop. Considerable potential for residential or craft/retail use. For sale by auction 16 October 1997.
TRG LAWRENCE & SON, 20 PRINCES STREET, YEOVIL, SOMERSET BA20 1EW. TEL: 01935 410777

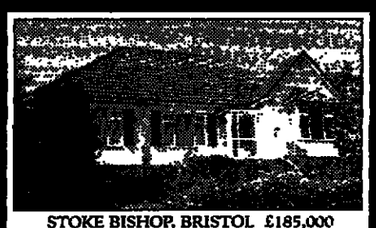


ESHER, SURREY £P.O.A. F/H
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STOKE BISHOP, BRISTOL £185,000
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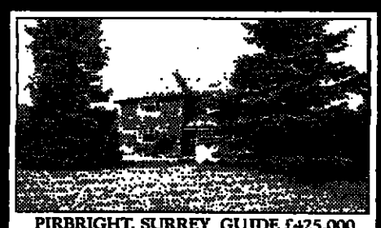
CANTERBURY, KENT £295,000 F/H
Located in a most sought after position, an impressive detached family house that has been maintained regardless of expense and provides comfortable accommodation and attractive landscaped gardens. Sole Agents.
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GOSFIELD, ESSEX £250,000
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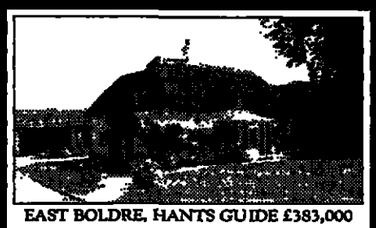
NR OKEHAMPTON, DEVON £205,000
Views of Dartmoor. A recently refurbished detached farmhouse and adjoining barn with conversion potential. Range of outbuildings. 4 acres.
GORDON VICK & PARTNERS, BRIDGE HOUSE, OKEHAMPTON, DEVON EX20 1DL. TEL: 01837 52371



PIRBRIGHT, SURREY GUIDE £425,000
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PLYMOUTH WATERFRONT From £80,000
Development of 6 luxury apartments and 2 individual 3 bedroom houses in one of Plymouth's most interesting waterside residential areas. Apartments have water views, en suites, fitted kitchens, security gates, entryphone, alarm systems, parking.
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EAST BOLDRE, HANTS GUIDE £383,000
Exceptional thatched cottage in approx 2 acres, opposite the open Forest. Beamed sitting room, elkm, kitchen, dining rm, study area, study, 3 beds, bathrm, gymnasium, utility, stable block, horse lorry/box garaging, hay store, tack room, menage.
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HEMINGFORD ABBOTS, CAMBS £145,000
Delightful 17th century detached cottage situated in a much sought after Cambridgeshire village. The property benefits from many fine period features throughout and enjoys views over open fields to the rear.
PETER LANE & PARTNERS, 10 THE PAVEMENT, ST IVES, CAMBS. TEL: 01480 460800



GUN GREEN, KENT £430,000 F/H
Immaculate detached converted oast house. 3 bedrooms, 3 receptions, kitchen/breakfast room, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, utility. wealth of exposed timbers, 2 inglenook fireplaces, 9 acres. Cranbrook School catchment.
OLIVER FISHER ESTATE AGENTS, THE CORNER HOUSE, HIGH ST, CRANBROOK, KENT TN17 3HE. TEL: 01580 714444



WALTON ON THAMES, SURREY £695,000
Situated on perhaps the most prestigious housing estate in Walton with south facing aspect, this traditional style family home. 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3/4 receptions, large fitted kitchen, superb gardens to front and rear.
JACKSONS PRINCIPAL, 45A HIGH ST, WALTON ON THAMES, SURREY KT12 1DH. TEL: 01932 220022.



GOLDERS GREEN, NW11 £275,000 F/H
A fully modernised character styled Edwardian 4 bedroom semi. Original features restored, 2 receptions, luxury fitted kitchen, utility room, guest WC, 2 bathrooms, gas central heating, off street parking for 3 cars, 80ft garden.
ALEXANDER ROSS, 64 GOLDERS GREEN ROAD, GOLDERS GREEN, LONDON NW11. TEL: 0181 455 5550



GOLDERS GREEN/HAMPSTEAD £299,950 F/H
A 3 storey 1905 built family home situated close to Hampstead Heath and Golders Hill Park, offered in excellent condition with original features. 3 receptions, modern fitted kitchen/diner. guest WC, 2 bathrooms. DG, attractive garden, sun terrace.
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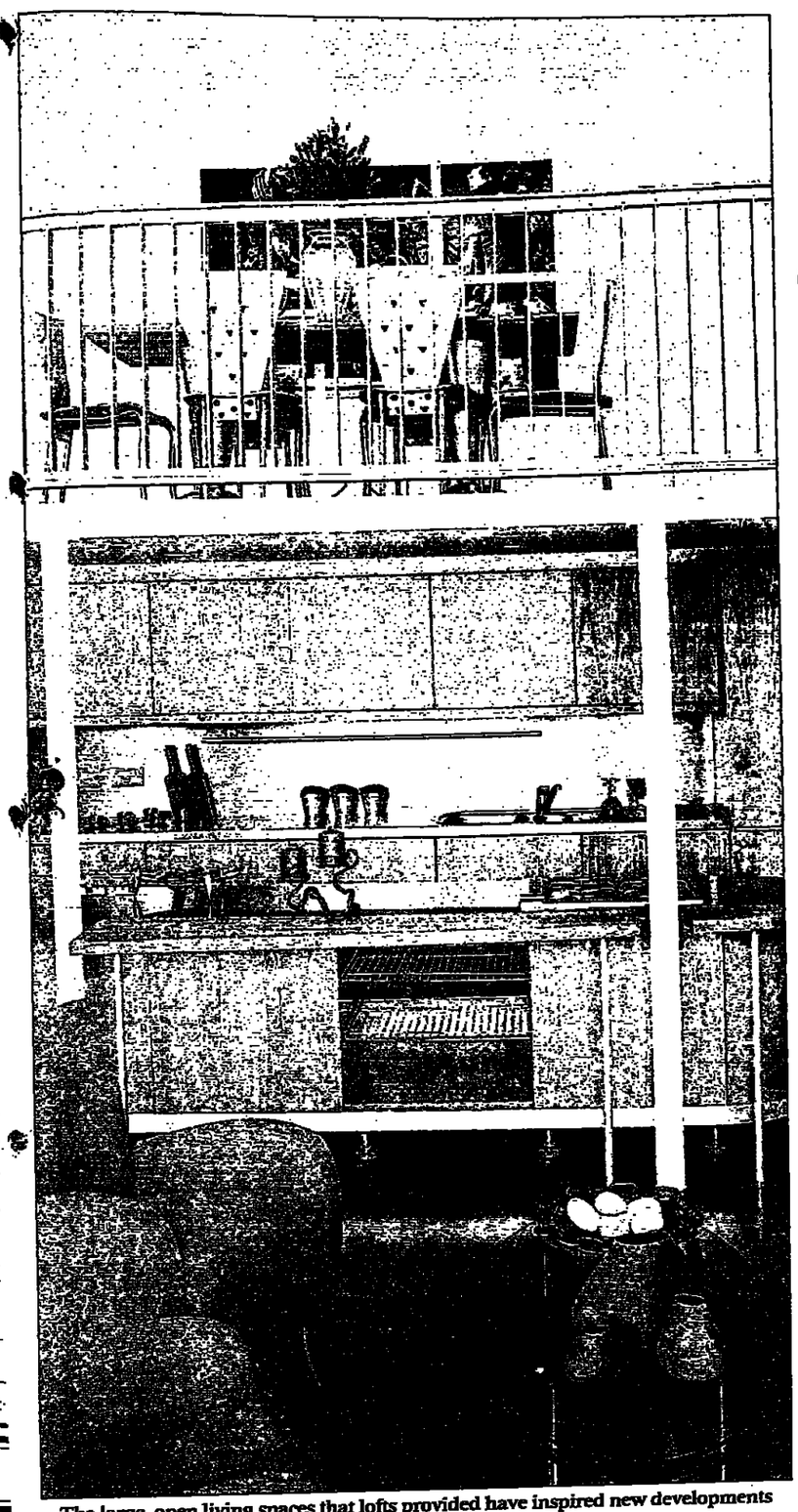
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THE PROPERTY PLATFORM

Home design captures the spirit of the age

Buyers and builders are moving away from "character" dwellings and opting for high-tech, says **Christine Webb**



The large, open living spaces that lofts provided have inspired new developments

The tide may be turning for housing design, which is moving away from the traditional "Vic-wardian" trends of recent years towards ultra-modern architecture that is truly of its time.

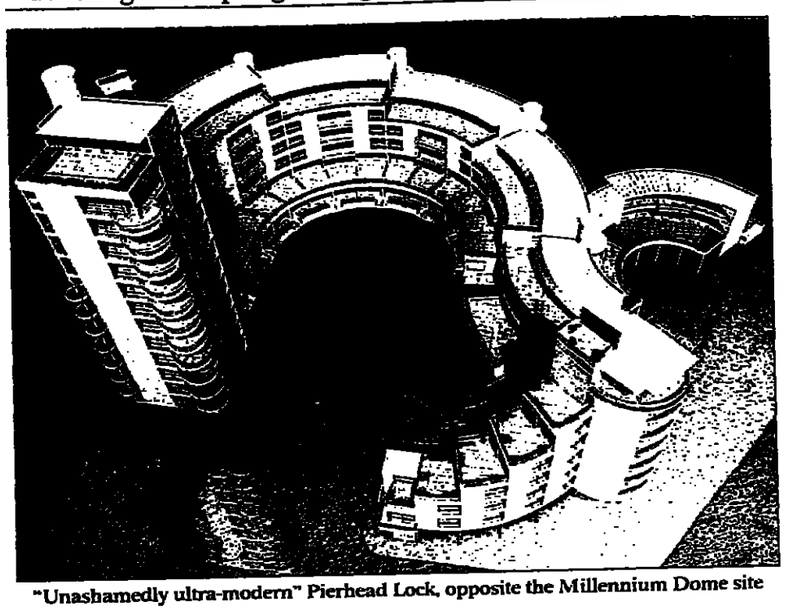
Contemporary residential development has been thin on the ground this decade because of a backlash against the featureless developments of the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s, which prompted a demand for homes with "character". Builders glanced back in time and built homes with a retrospective flavour — mock-Tudor, Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian or Art Deco.

However, the loft idea then passed from Manhattan to London, and the large, open living spaces that lofts provided have lent themselves to up-to-the-minute design. More and more warehouses and office blocks are being converted into lofts, which are quickly snapped up. The clean, new looks they have inspired are encouraging fresh new developments.

Mass housebuilder Barratt, which helped to popularise the nostalgic, retrospective trend, has gone high-tech with its fortieth development in Docklands, east London. Its previous 39 schemes there, which provided 3,000 dwellings, have all been neo-classical or retrospective in some way. But Pierhead Lock is a striking new arrangement of 60 flats fronting on to the Thames.

"Pierhead Lock is unashamedly ultra-modern," says David Pretty, chairman of Barratt's southern region. "It is opposite the Millennium Dome, a symbol of futurism. That's why we decided on modern for this development and took the view that, if we were going to do it, we would do it spectacularly. We have no problem with contemporary design so long as it really is good design and is appropriate for the location."

Pierhead Lock, designed by the Goddard Manton Partnership, will be a landmark development shaped like a question mark, with two curved spurs emerging from its shank. It will have a stepped roofline and all 67 apartments will have terraces or balconies to take advantage of the river views. There will also be covered parking. The flats will range in price from £120,000 to £400,000, and in size from one to three-bedroom, two-bathroom luxury apartments.



"Unashamedly ultra-modern" Pierhead Lock, opposite the Millennium Dome site

The two-acre site has been cleared of 20 dockers' cottages. These had been built on the infill that was loaded into two graving docks by the Port of London Authority between the wars. Barratt is funding a pre-building survey by the Museum of London's archaeological service before starting work.

Berkeley, another leading builder known for its traditional housing styles, has departed from that with West One House, built on the site of Marathon House, a 1960s building off Tottenham Court Road in central London. It was demolished to make way for a block of 73 one, two and three-bedroom apartments.

Wates Built Homes is researching and also developing some new house designs, says Jonathan Spencer, the managing director.

According to Michael Kitterhing at Winkworth's Islington office, north London, a healthy market for good modern architecture in London is already taking root. He has just sold a superb modern house at Danbury Street, N1, marketed at £495,000.

"There is a growing number of people who are looking for modern design in London, though there's not much available," he says.

"There's definitely been a change, a feeling that it's about time we started looking forward in this country rather than back. For years people rejected it, but in the past two years it has suddenly become acceptable and it's moving out of the Soho and Clerkenwell loft community into other areas."

London is not the only city spawning leading-edge design. The Glasgow 1999 City of Architecture and Design initiative is providing a crucible for new ideas. Ian Ritchie, the innovative architect famous for offices, museums and exhibition centres in London and Paris, and for designing Bermondsey Station for the London Underground, has now been selected to design his first British residential scheme, a block of 12 flats for completion in spring 1999 for Thenew Housing Association.

Paul Finch, editor of *The Architects Journal*, says "Some of the big housebuilders are taking stock about where they stand in relation to contemporary design. Clearly there's an appetite for the contemporary. People are voting with their feet because one of the biggest sectors in housebuilding is people who commission bespoke houses rather than buying off-the-peg: they're not happy to accept the standard package.

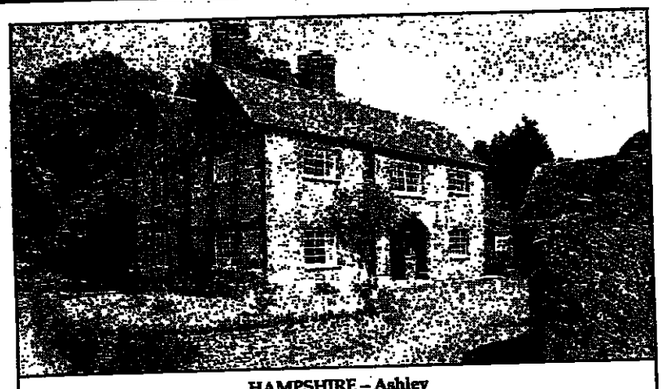
"The real question is whether public appetites are moving away from *To the Manor Born* and towards the *Miami Vice* style of architecture. The upper end of the market is still building in the vernacular, but they are looking at whether that is going to go on much longer."

This question is being addressed by a new group, the Popular Housing Forum, headed by Robert Adam, the Winchester architect well known for his classic house designs. "We're about to commission a piece of research, partly funded by the Department of the Environment, on appearance in housing to establish what people want and which way the market is going," he says. "We want to know what new trends are emerging."

Architects are delighted at the prospect of the work generated by state-of-the art buildings, as some large housebuilders no longer use their services.

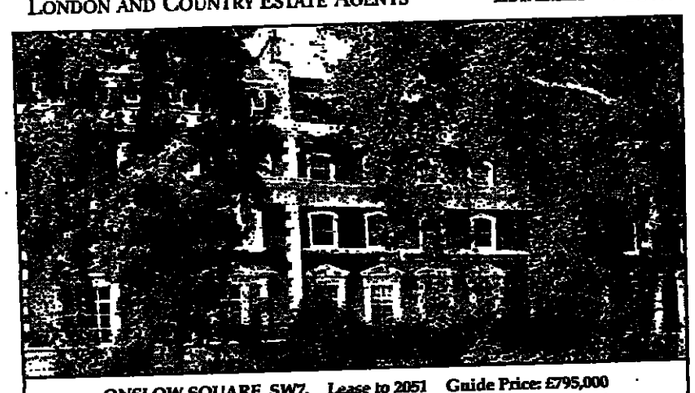
At the Royal Institute of British Architects Housing Design Awards in July, David Rock, president of the institute, said: "Let's throw away our Borsetshire Design Guides, our dog-eared pattern books. Two slogans, 'It's time for a change' and 'Britain deserves better', seem appropriate. We talk about the need to build four million new homes in our crowded country in the next 20 years; we have a new and durable-looking Government; we really cannot carry our old and shabby baggage into the new millennium.

"The design ethic that's been obvious in our centres and all sorts of institutions has finally got through to housing. There's not the division there used to be between housing architects and non-housing architects."

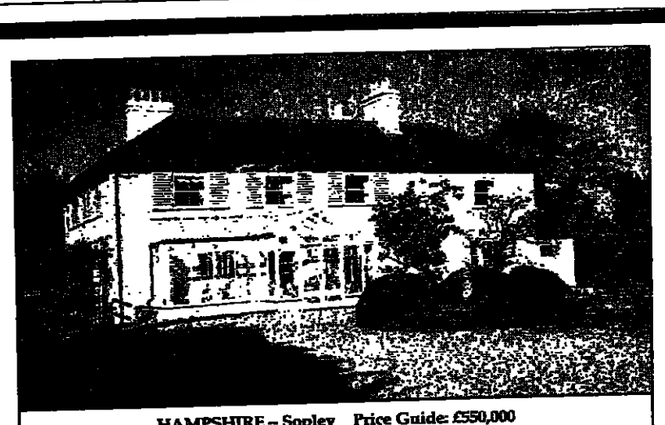


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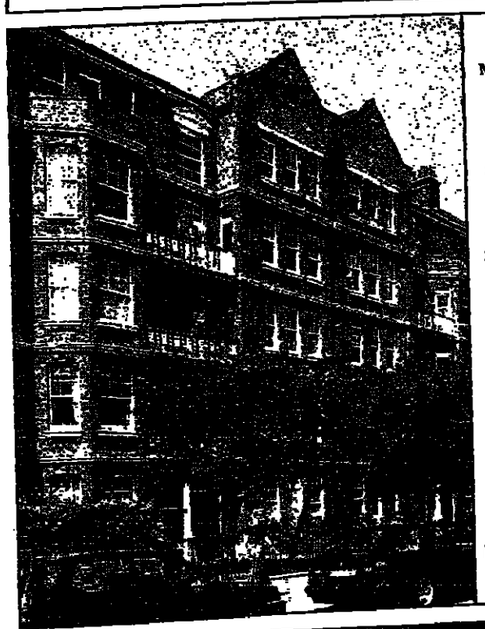
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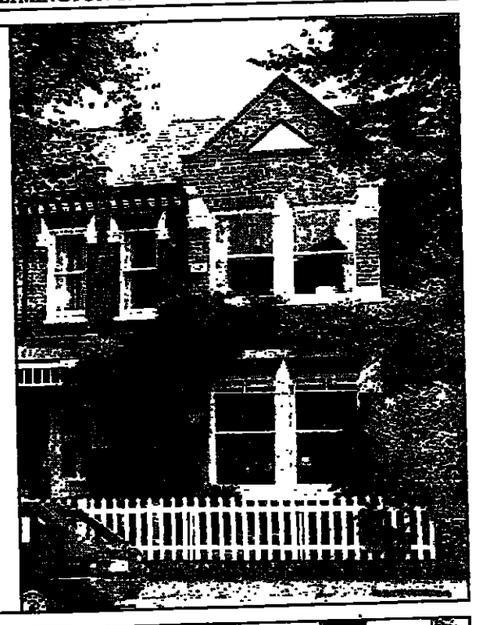
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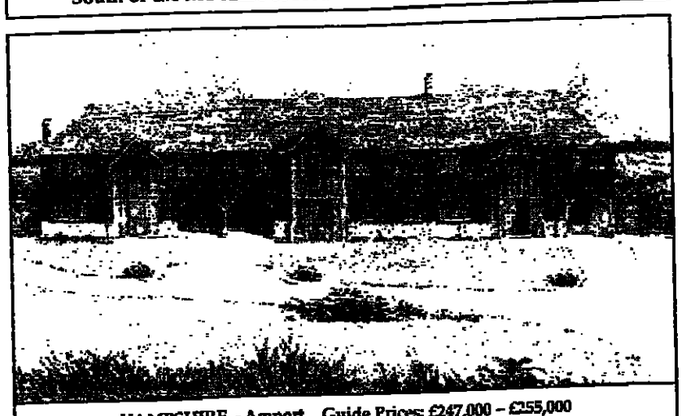
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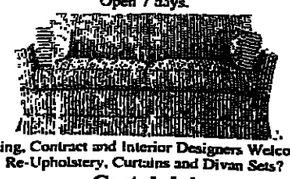
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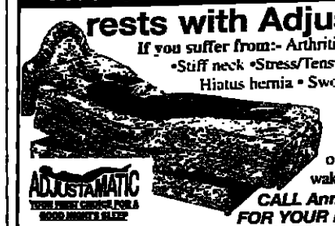
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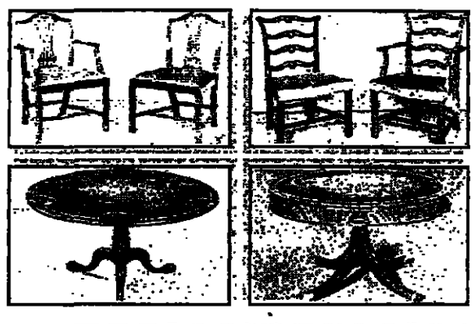
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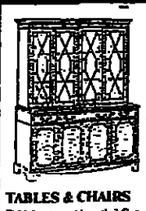
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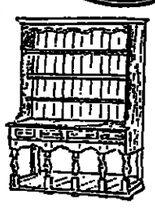


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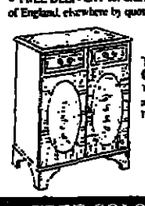
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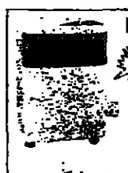
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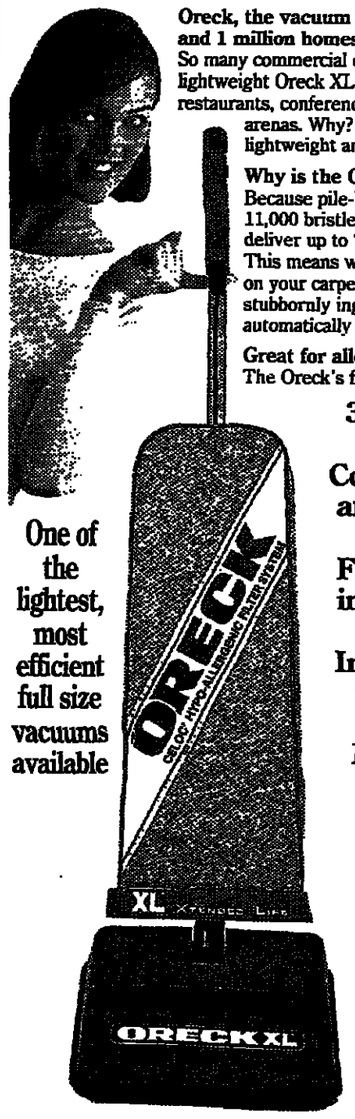
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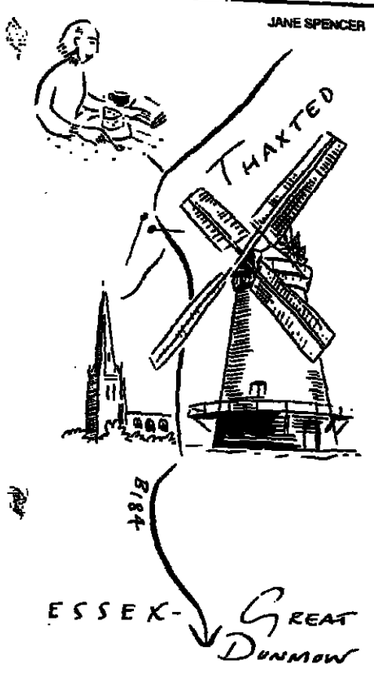
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JANE SPENCER



ON THE SPOT ESSEX

Rural recommendations

The place: below the sails of John Webb's windmill, Thaxted, Essex.

The view: to the north is the magnificent spire of St John the Baptist church; to the right, neat houses fold gently into the rolling, arable farmland.

The appeal: a working windmill, with an array of farming memorabilia in a well-preserved medieval town.

Aficionados: a few foreign tourists, walkers and visitors from other parts of the county.

Historical interest: the windmill was built in 1804 and supplied flour to the community for more than 100 years during a time of agricultural expansion. Exhibits include a fire engine from 1835 and a 100-year-old pair of children's clogs. Thaxted dates back to 1066 and was built around a Saxon settlement.

Time to visit: the windmill is open between 2-5pm at weekends until the end of the month, but the view and village are worth seeing at any time.

How to get there: B184 from Great Dunmow. Take the path beside church opposite the Swan Hotel and the windmill is just beyond a row of almshouses.

OS reference: 609/309 on sheet 167.

Also nearby: the house where Gustav Holst lived. The timbered Guildhall is a rare, fine example of medieval architecture and is used as much today as it was almost six centuries ago. The Cake Table Tearoom for home-baked cakes. Audley End House, a significant Jacobean mansion, is five miles to the northwest.

DEBORAH KING

This month, readers enlighten us on turning water into wine, and have their say on country footpaths

Honey, that drink's a stinger

JOHN HESELTINE



Source of the nectar: bees played their part in a minor miracle by producing the honey for Spiced Welsh Mead

Your letters in the past few weeks have fallen neatly into two piles, one of which deserves urgent attention, because it relates to bees and we are about to enter the honey harvesting season. The other pile contains stinging criticism of my suggestion for wiping all footpaths off the map and starting again. There have been many waspish replies to that one.

Bees first — or "possibly" bees. Last month I mentioned Philip Henry, of Hove, Sussex, whose father performed the apparent miracle of turning water into wine (or at least some kind of alcoholic drink) by employing a secret ingredient which he called "mythuglum". Seventy years on, Mr Henry still remembers the mystical, evil blob which rose and fell in the jug as if it were alive, but has no clue as to what it might have been. We may be able to help.

David Cooper, of Birchington, Kent writes: *This sounds to me like "metheglin", which apparently comes from the Welsh* meddyglyn, *a sort of mead with O-levels. The "blob" was presumably the clump-forming yeast which, according to C.J.J. Berry, the doyen of home wine-making, is called* Saccharomyces Pyriformis, *now all but impossible to find.*

Do not fret, thirsty reader. Mrs May of Rhos on Sea, Clwyd, firmly believes that what we are talking about here is bees wine, a Welsh spiced mead. She writes: *It started off as a small blob of soft creamy substance placed in a large glass jar. This was then filled with water (and presumably honey) and placed on a sunny windowsill. In a short time it began to ferment.*

John Clare of Worcester Park, Surrey, went no further than a Boots' recipe book for Spiced Welsh Mead and, although the method is too long to publish here, I can tell you that wine yeast, honey and mixed herbs, such as balm, rosemary, sage and thyme, should do the trick. I have no doubt you will let me know the results, if your hand remains steady enough to write the address.

HANDS QUIVERING with rage were evident from your replies to my suggestion that, in the interests of allowing more people easier and more pleasant access to the countryside, we should abandon our old network of footpaths and, by the general agreement of all interested parties, draw up another one.

Clive Williams, of Ropsley near Grantham, Lincolnshire, writes: *How refreshing to have a sensible view towards footpaths. As a farm manager I was involved in with the Ramblers when reorganising footpaths. Initially we tried a radical approach, similar to your suggestions, obviously benefiting the farming operation but also, we believed, making more attractive walks for the public. Alas, we were met with an intransigent attitude from the Ramblers who were only interested in the retention of all existing paths but, of course, welcomed any additions. Fortunately we came to a suitable compromise and created several circular walks.*

But Ian Bennett of Otham, Kent, writes: *I cannot believe that a rationalisation will turn out to be anything but a sacrifice by the people of their right to walk many paths — some of which may not be used much today but could be in the future. Most probably, straight walks which now enjoy fine views across fields will become instead dreary dog-leg diversions skulking around field edges on half-ploughed and overgrown headlands. Never forget that the final court in the land is the big landowner's club, the House of Lords.*

Jerry Pearlman, honorary solicitor to the Rambler's Association, sees through me when he tells me I am being "provocative". Of course I am. He writes: *Almost all paths lead somewhere, usually linking up with another path or road. The fact that they are impossible to find is not a reason for altering the path — it is reason for the local authority to clear the path. Experience has show that cleared paths are more frequently walked. It is the hoary old annual which is most provocative: the idea that the footpath network has lost the purpose for which it was originally intended and thus it should be altered. How boring. How pedantic. The whole beauty of the footpath network is that it takes one into places where otherwise you would not be able to reach by routes which are sometimes eccentric but almost always a pleasure.*

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

Mr Pearlman, let me take you by the hand and we shall ramble together into the sunset, for we are of the same mind.

But I take a slightly broader view which encompasses the increasing numbers requiring undemanding access to the countryside. Why should they be excluded at the expense of those who consider walking to be a near-religious experience, the more esoteric the better?

Would there not be more walkers, of all classes, doing less damage, and getting more pleasure if some of the less attractive walks were swapped for more interesting and accessible ones?

Don't worry Mr Pearlman, it would still leave enough dreary walks to last you a lifetime.

Your letters are welcome on all countryside matters. Please address them to: PAUL HEINEY, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Sabines swoop on Ireland

FEATHER REPORT

ON FRIDAY last week a flock of 347 Sabine's gulls was seen off the coast of Co Kerry in the Republic of Ireland. It must have been an astonishing sight for the observers who counted them as they passed by. The Sabine's gull is a rare bird in the British Isles. It nests in the marshes of the tundra around the North Pole, and in the autumn the greater part of the population haunts the sea off both the east and the west coast of America.

Some birds drift across the Atlantic towards the Bay of Biscay, but in most years only a few are recorded in British or Irish waters. The best place to see one in Britain is said to be St Ives in Cornwall.

They are delightful and distinctive birds, and I have a particular feeling for them, since one of the first rare birds I saw as a boy was a Sabine's gull over Staines Reservoir in Middlesex. They are small gulls, with a forked tail like a tern, and an unmistakable wing-pattern, with a dark forewing and a large white triangle behind it. Both the young birds and the adults sport this characteristic plumage. In summer the adults have a dark hood, but that is hardly ever seen here.

I can still remember the light, dipping flight of the bird I saw at Staines, and the way it dropped down to pick up food from the water without settling. In fact, it behaved just like the black terns which are also passing through Britain now as members of the great autumn migration.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — look out for migrant pied flycatchers, redstarts and whinchats almost anywhere. Twitchers — a white-winged black tern an Hanningfield, Essex; a lesser yellowlegs at Hayle, Cornwall; a Wilson"s phalarope at Kilnsea, East Yorkshire.*

Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all other times.

PETER BROWN



Rare: Sabine's gull

Flower power buried deep in the hedgerows

Elder, that smelly shrub which no one likes, is the basis of a thriving £12 million drinks industry

If the growing army of elderflower pickers did a good job earlier this summer, much of our countryside will be deprived of the rich, glossy, blue-black berries that bring us the first tinges of autumn colour. But, ironically, the picking of increasingly vast amounts of the foamy white flowers — to supply a burgeoning *elderflower drinks industry* — could be a *potent means* of conserving one of our most characteristic, but least loved, shrubs.

What Richard Mabey, in his *Flora Britannica*, described as "a mangy, short-lived, opportunist and *foul-smelling shrub*" *is now* the basis of a *thriving* £12 million drinks industry which started only in 1986 and which is totally dependent on wayside elder for its success.

According to information compiled by Dr Hew Prendergast, of the Centre for Economic Botany at Kew, and Fiona Dennis, a horticultural consultant, 15 million litres of cordial (converted to ready-to-drink equivalent) and sparkling elderflower drink was produced in the UK in 1995, the most recent year for which they could compile figures. That is an increase of 500 per cent in four years.

What is more, Prendergast and Dennis see no signs of this increase abating. The product is, they believe, "successful because of its very simplicity: its branding; the fact that it's a single flavour; its light taste and its straightforward herbal usage to fend off colds".

Bottle Green Drinks, based in Stroud, Gloucestershire, has produced about half a million bottles of cordial and a million large bottles of other elderflower drinks this year. "The market has grown remarkably, beyond our wildest expectations," says Kit Morris, a partner in the company, one of the largest in the UK.

"Our biggest stockists are supermarkets but we're aiming now at pubs and hotels, too," he adds, reflecting perhaps an overall decline in the consumption of alcoholic drinks. "We need around 25 tonnes of flowers a year at the moment. We buy them in from freelance pickers, unemployed people, farmers, retired people — a huge range. We pay £1 for 1lb of flowers. They collect locally and further afield. Some even travel a hundred miles or so."

Companies such as Bottle Green Drinks have a "pickers' code of conduct", including getting any landowner's permission, not breaking branches, picking only those flowers in full bloom and delivering them to the factory cool, fresh and uncrammed on the day of collection. Serious pickers can earn £60 to £70 a day.

What impact does all this deflowering have on our hedgerow elders? "If one company is using 25 tonnes of flowers and each head weighs, say, ten grammes, then they need around 2.5 million flower heads," comments Miles King of Plant Life. Then he adds, with even more arithmetic dexterity: "Suppose an average of 50 flower heads per shrub, then they must pick over about 50,000 elder trees." Multiply this by the number of companies making elderflower drinks (at least eight) and an awful lot of elder trees lose their flowers each year.



Blooming marvellous: Elderflower pickers at work. One drinks company needs as much as 25 tonnes of the flowers a year and pays £1 per 1lb

However, Mr King is not worried. "It's marvellous to see it being exploited for a commercial purpose," he says. "I think it could do a great deal for conserving a shrub that no one likes." And this includes Mr Mabey, it seems.

"Foresters dislike elder because its wood isn't of much use and farmers often want to get rid of it from hedges because it doesn't make a stockproof barrier," says Mr King. The grubbing up of hedgerows has also put paid to a lot of elder.

Much of the dislike seems to stem from its past association with witchcraft and death. According to *Flora Britannica*, if you burn elder wood you see the Devil himself. In the distant past no one was supposed even to cut it without permission from the local witch. And, to add a twist of the macabre, it is said that hearse drivers (before the invention of the long, black car) preferred it for the handles of their horsewhips.

With all this — both real and *imagined* — animosity towards the elder shrub (it can actually grow to a 25ft tree), Mr King sees the elderflower drinks industry offering an olive branch to our smelliest shrub. Picking the flowers, even if a few branches get broken, does not do any harm and will encourage farmers and landowners to retain rather than remove them if they get a share of the pickings.

Neither is Chris Mead of the British Trust for Ornithology alarmed by the removal of vast numbers of elder flowers and the consequent lack of autumn berries. "Birds such as thrushes and young starlings eat large amounts of them; so do some warblers like blackcaps and whitethroats to help them fatten up for their autumn migration," he says.

"But there are plenty of other autumn fruits around and, in any case, few elder berries remain by the end of the autumn or early winter. So they aren't available to get birds through the leanest times of the year."

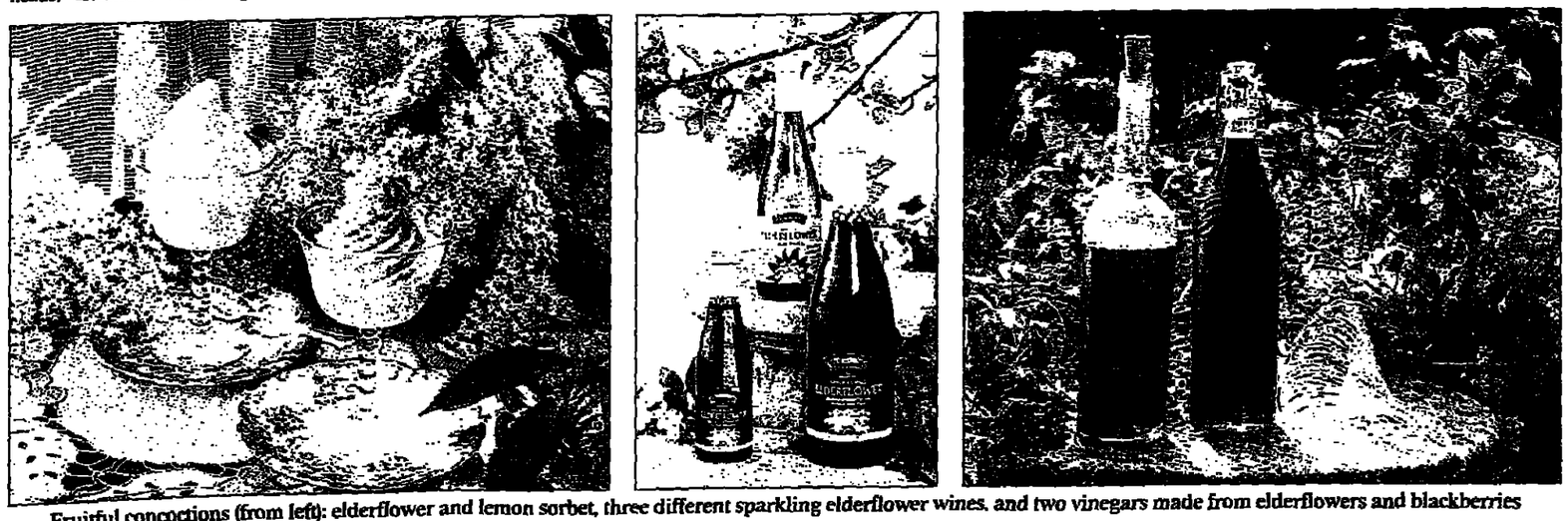
Can the drinks companies continue to rely on hedgerow and farmland trees scattered about the countryside? Surely it would be in their interest to grow their own plantations to secure their supplies, thus removing any incentive to conserve the wayside elder as we know it.

Guy Woodall, chairman of Thorncroft, another large producer, thinks not. "I don't see it becoming a big farm crop: we grow a little commercially but we're perfectly content to continue to employ pickers in the countryside," he says. "We pay around 300 pickers, but it's a short season — only about three weeks."

Dr Prendergast, though, sees possibilities for farmers to turn some fields over to elder, a crop which might perhaps even attract European Union subsidies in the future. After all, olive growers across southern Europe rely on such supports. Getting the drink in Brussels bars could help.

Either way, the future of our smelliest shrub seems much more secure. For the first time it really could become an elder statesman of the countryside.

MALCOLM SMITH



Fruitful concoctions (from left): elderflower and lemon sorbet, three different sparkling elderflower wines, and two vinegars made from elderflowers and blackberries

A VET WRITES

Q Last week my three-month-month old Airedale puppy died from an epileptic fit just before a thunderstorm. Until then he had been a healthy, happy puppy. My vet told me Airedales are prone to epileptic fits, but the breeder discounts this. My pup was born nearly 48 hours after his litter mates. Could this have caused some weakness? I'm looking for another Airedale and want to avoid further problems.

A Fits occur from many causes, primary epilepsy being one, and a tendency to this can be inherited. As far as I am aware, Airedales are not so afflicted and primary epilepsy is rarely fatal. It's rare in dogs below a year old, so while a fit was associated with your puppy's death, I'm not convinced it was epilepsy. He could have been born with a brain disorder or a weakness of the blood vessels, which resulted in a cerebral haemorrhage — just possibly connected with a delayed birth. Infection of the brain cannot be ruled out. A fatal fit could be the first sign of any of these conditions. A post-mortem might have provided an explanation. But your pup's end was rare and is most unlikely to happen again.

Q Our cat is hooked on dry cat biscuits. She refuses gourmet canned food until we sprinkle dry food on top. A friend has told me I'm endangering her life because dry cat food causes liver damage. If this is true, why is it sold?

A It's not true. Like so many "old wives' tales, this one is based on a morsel of fact. Twenty-five years ago the first dry cat biscuits did cause bladder — not liver — problems. Meat, fish and canned cat food contain more than 70 per cent fluid, nearly as much as a cat needs. No one realised that a cat eating dry food (10 per cent fluid) might not drink enough to top up his liquid needs. These first dry foods contained a lot of magnesium and the combination of insufficient liquid and excess magnesium salts caused crystals to form in the bladder. She-cats developed acute cystitis, some males were unable to pass urine. For many years the magnesium level of cat biscuits has been controlled and a notice on every packet emphasises the importance of clean drinking water at all times. A cat with a history of cystitis should avoid dry food. Otherwise it's a perfectly satisfactory part of the diet.

JAMES ALLCOCK

As the RSPC calls for a ban on beach rides, **Robin Young** asks: Is life really so bad for donkeys?

FOX PHOTOS



Donkey rides for children provide a quintessential image of British summer holidays but now the tradition, stretching back to Victorian times, is under threat because of concerns over the animals' welfare

Riding into controversy

We have heard about Spaniards loading donkeys' backs with stones until their backs break, making the poor beasts carry the village's heaviest man, or dropping the unfortunate animals from 50ft towers. And now we are told that the British habit of treating children to donkey rides on the sands is cruel.

The RSPCA wants donkeys banned from those few beaches that still provide them with employment, such as Blackpool, where up to 160 animals are licensed to work the sands at any one time.

The society's chief inspector, Brian Jeffries, whose beat includes Blackpool, said recently: "It is wrong to expect any animal to stand on the beach and be exploited. It is very much out of date and I would like to see an end to the practice. It is a relic of Victorian times and not at all what we want to see today."

This makes an abrupt change from urgent demands that we return to Victorian values. For donkeys, it seems, the good old days are past.

Time was when every resort had its string of Jennys, Maisies, Dollys and Ee-yores patiently waiting to provide a brief and placid journey of delight. Now, we are to believe, that pleasant amble is really a ride from hell.

"It must have been unimaginable for these animals to be working in the kind of heat we have had recently, and on the hot sand," says Chief Inspector Jeffries. "The sand is very dry and blowing about in the wind. These animals are breathing particles of it in all day long."

It makes one wonder how the donkey that carried Jesus Christ into Jerusalem on a doubtless baking Palm Sunday must have suffered. Pretty hot and sandy place, the Holy Land. Not really fit for donkeys. Jesus was lucky that there was not an RSPCA officer on hand to insist that he ride a camel. Inevitably, there have been suggestions that there should be camels in place of donkeys at Blackpool. The local council, who are really quite a considerate lot, tried it out. Naturally, that year the summer was cold and wet and the camels spent most of their time in the sick bay feeling terribly sorry for themselves. The council still enforces a Donkey Charter, which dates back to 1942, and controls the donkeys' working hours, stipulating that they get a day off a week and proper lunch break with their saddles loosened. An enforcement officer patrols the beach to ensure that the charter is being followed. Mr Jeffries, though, does not give up easily. "When we looked at a group of 24 donkeys as part of a court case," he said, "we found a large number had upper respiratory problems as a consequence of being on the beach. That alone is enough for me to stay it should stop."



Linda: Beast of burden?

DONKEY HOMES

IF the RSPCA decides to withdraw donkeys from our beaches, there are several sanctuaries offering assistance, including the following:

- The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon (01395 578222). Largest sanctuary of its kind in the world.
- Isle of Wight Donkey Sanctuary, Wroxall (01983 852693). Receives more than 50,000 visitors each year.
- Folly's Farm Sanctuary for Donkeys, Berkhamsted, Berks (01442 871158). Small, six-acre centre has a homeopathic vet.
- Michael Elliot Trust near Buxton, Derbyshire (01298 79775). Includes therapeutic centre where children can spend a week with a donkey.

Goodness, Mr Jeffries, animals cannot be 100 per cent fit all the time. Go into any field and look at the cowpats. You will probably decide that, if cows have ready access to grass, it gives them chronic diarrhoea, and that they should all therefore feel much better off back in intensive farming systems where they can be given pre-planned diets and never be troubled by so much as a fly again.

An RSPCA spokeswoman said of the beach donkeys: "It is something we have concerns about. We question whether it is really an appropriate use of such an animal. It is very difficult in the environment of a beach to keep an animal in circumstances where it is comfortable and that are healthy for it."

Have these people not noticed how uncomfortable it is to be a sheep, exposed on a Welsh hillside in all weather, and not paid any attention without being chivvied by dogs or penned against one's will? It is not a very comfortable life in the environment of a mountain sheep run — either before or after you are forcibly barbered by a shear-wielding Delila the shape of Giant Haystacks.

Anna Sewell made a very good thing out of exposing the cruelties suffered by horses in *Black Beauty*. Luckily, not too long after she had banked her royalties, Messrs Morris, Austin and Henry Ford came along to provide a practical solution as far as draught and carriage horses were concerned, at least, by popularising the internal combustion engine. If there had been a 30 cwt Bedford about the place, poor Ginger need never have died.

By the way, if giving children rides is not an appropriate use for a donkey, what is? Don't answer that, because I already know: the French and Italians turn them into sausages. Please don't tell Mr Jeffries. It will only upset him.



Party animals: dog and owner get ready to celebrate

Battersea dogs come home for a party

Former residents of the famous rescue centre and their owners are heading for a reunion, writes **Sue Corbett**

At about 9.30am tomorrow, Holly will be starting to get excited. The chocolate-brown and sandy mongrel bought from the Dogs' Home, Battersea, three-and-a-half years ago will have been dozing on and off since leaving home in Rotherham, South Yorkshire. But the minute her owner's car reaches London, she will put her nose to the ventilation panel, sniff avidly, wag her tail and, says her owner Tracey Newbert, "generally go potty".

"I'm sure she knows," says Miss Newbert. "I don't know if it's the smell of the city that tells her we're in London or if it's just because I'm slowing down. But she knows we're on our way to the Battersea Dogs' reunion."

The reunion is the annual jamboree for former residents of the home and their new owners. More than 3,000 people and 1,000 dogs are expected at Battersea Park between 11am and 5pm to participate in canine beauty competitions: a dog scurry (with jumps and obstacles); agility demonstrations; a canine fancy-dress competition; a singalong lunchtime stroll for dogs and owners and children's events. A vet will advise on dog care, and a dog beautician will clip dogs' claws and groom them for a small donation.

You don't have to own a dog to be welcome, but if you are interested in buying a Battersea dog, staff will advise you. You can pop over to inspect the dogs currently on offer. The home will be open for its normal weekend hours of 10.30am to 3.15pm.

"The reunion's wonderful, with a real carnival atmosphere," says Biddy Woolaton, of Petersfield, Hampshire, who will be returning with Will, a mongrel she bought from the home four years ago. "It's good to see all those people — they must be aged from two to 92 — and their dogs, and to realise that all those animals were once unwanted and now they're very much loved."

The reunion is now in its third year. "It's our way of saying thank you to the people who buy dogs from us," says Shirley Piotrowski, the home's PR and events manager. "We don't just flog them dogs and then it's goodbye for ever. We want to go on encouraging them as owners. That's why we have an advice line and do after-sales visits, and why we plan to launch a Battersea Dogs' Club next year.

"What is pleasant is that everyone helps. Staff make up the doggy bags for the dogs to take home, and our usual suppliers, such as Pedigree Petfoods, kindly donate the chews to put in them. Last year, a lady who had had a dog from us baked a 12 sq ft cake for owners and dogs, iced it and decorated it with chews. This year we'll have a massive dog-biscuit and chocolate-button lunch party."

Potential new owners of Battersea dogs are interviewed and their home circumstances taken into account before dogs are released into their care. The home's rehabilitation service makes sure the dogs are fit to be rehomed.

The dogs, which sell for £50 to £70, are all vaccinated and microchipped, some are neutered, and all owners receive a free 3kg bag of dogfood, an entitlement to three months' free veterinary treatment and the reassurance of being able to use the advice line.

- *For details of a dog-rescue organisation near you, contact the Kennel Club on 0171-493 8651 or write to the club at 1 Clarges Street, London W1Y 8AB.*
- *To buy a dog from your nearest RSPCA, call 01403 223264.*

ADOPT ME



Peter: unseeing affection

PETER is a five-year-old black cat who is blind. Having lived in a loving home, he is affectionate, able and fully house-trained but would need to live indoors in a quiet, caring home with a calm and understanding owner.

- *For more information about Peter, please contact Wood Green Animal Shelters, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (01480 830014).*

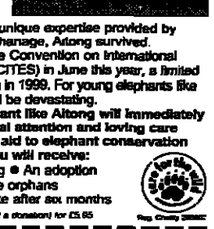
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'I have started to wonder whether I am going to pass from adolescent *angst* to midlife crisis without having that bit in between'

Never having to say you are 40

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

Last Saturday was my friend Mary's fortieth birthday. Her husband decided to mark the event with a great big party, the invitation to which for some reason brought on the most tremendous fit of inexplicable gloom. So tenacious did it prove, the gloom, that eventually, having tried and failed to Snap Out Of It, I began to apostrophise myself in the mincing Morningside accents of a very small Scottish psychotherapist with whom I once had a brief and remarkably tiresome encounter: "Sooo, Jane," I said to myself. "What is it that bothers you, exactly? The fact that your friend is 40, or the fact that she's having a party?"

Well, *both*, actually. This slouching-towards-forty business comes as a bit of a shock. It's like that very peculiar moment, a couple of elections ago, when the first wave of one's university contemporaries turned up in the House of Commons with their pinstriped suits, and wings of hair (those of them that still *had* any hair) neatly brushed behind their ears, and Views on how the rest of us ought to conduct our lives.

I always feel a bit put out when I see them on the telly, talking about great affairs of State. Not that I have the *slightest desire* to join them in bossing around my fellow countrymen. I can't even take it seriously when I hear myself bossing Alexander, and am quite taken aback on the occasions when an instruction to put his shoes on results, some time later, in the putting on of the shoes. But I do have the strong feeling that somewhere in existence there is a Book of Rules for being a fully fledged adult, and that I somehow unaccountably failed to join the queue when it was being issued.

And now, with the first of my friends' fortieth birthdays beginning to come around, I have started to wonder whether I am going to pass seamlessly from adolescent *angst* to midlife crisis without ever having had that bit in between where one feels that one has found out what one is supposed to be doing. Quite soon, I shall even have passed the age at which I can run away and join the French Foreign Legion, which I have always rather fancied — all that marching about singing songs of death and glory, and jumping into croco*dile-infested* swamps. Brooding thus, I set off for the party, unaccompanied, since Alexander had a prior engagement. This in itself was alarming since, lacking any kind of small talk, I am perfectly useless at parties, and tend to stand, frozen with terror, gripping a glass and looking (I am told) so extremely forbidding as to ensure that no one sane would dream of coming up and trying to start a conversation.

Mary's was a particularly grown-up party of great elegance and sophistication — the house transformed into a kind of Moorish tent; great platters of delicious food, and Mary's clever, beautiful friends, talking about the sorts of things that one did talk about when things were normal, as they still were, last Saturday afternoon.

Eventually the conversation turned, as it always seems to among busy thirty-somethings, to the awful difficulty of juggling work and children. "You have *no idea* how exhausting it is," sighed one busy mummy. Well, I demurred, I did have *some* idea. "You've got a child?" said this mummy, eyeing me sharply. "You don't *look* like a mother." So enchanted by this that I forgot to ask any of the obvious questions — What *does* a mother look like? Have I overdone it a bit with the bootleg hipsters and the Important Jewellery? Is Alexander nerving himself to have a Serious Chat with me about trying to look a bit more like a Proper Mother? — I teetered off on my unmaternal stilettos and had such a lovely time at the rest of the party that on the way home, I found myself thinking, perhaps *I* should plan a birthday party.

This is a mad idea, and I know I shall never actually do it. Insufficient Fuss Made has always been the leitmotiv of my birthdays. My mother assures me that when I was small I had *lovely* parties, with slices of delicious ham and chocolate with pink inside and so on, but I don't remember any of that.

I *do* remember one particularly mortifying one in my teens, when my father kept bursting in and making us turn the gramophone down, and it all ended with *All Right Now*, that traditional accompaniment to the clammy grope in the dark with which teenage parties had to end in the late Seventies, having to be played at a whisper — a state of affairs from which my status at school never properly recovered.

In my twenties, the gulf between expectation and reality grew even wider. Months before the day, I would be putting together the sort of wish list that even Marie Antoinette might have considered a touch overdone: a Siamese kitten, a white hamster with red eyes, a star sapphire . . . The fellow I was going out with, meanwhile, made it his business to ignore my antics, on the grounds (many men, I have noticed, take this view) that the exchange of gifts on such occasions is a tyranny, and indeed a humiliation for the recipient. Also, one ought not to care about *things*.

Well, he was quite right, no doubt. And as I grow older, I move towards his view. Even so, I was a shade startled this year, on opening a promisingly bulky parcel from my mother (generally an inspired present-giver), to discover a brace of wincyette nighties. It was, I think, a sign. Henceforth, I shall shut up about my birthdays. It will mean no presents, of course, but it will also mean I shall never, ever have to admit to being 40.

Helpful hints from hearth and home



Patricia Roberts Cairns

Louisa Young on the *Good Housekeeping* of 75 years ago

We do not housekeep any more. Housekeepers only exist in small ads in *The Lady*, not in every home in the land. "Housekeeper is not a job, and housewife is a derisory term," says Patricia Roberts Cairns, Editor of *Good Housekeeping*, 75 years old this year.

So isn't she ever tempted to change the title, with its anachronistic connotations? "No," she says, "because it doesn't mean anything now — it's a familiar brand. If it were launched now it would have a different name, but it was launched then and things were different."

Seventy-five years ago, a woman was either a housekeeper or employed someone to run her house for her. In 1922, the first issue of *Good Housekeeping* introduced itself thus: "There should be no more drudgery in the house. There must be time to think, to read, to enjoy life . . . The house-proud woman in these days of servant shortages does not always know the best way to lessen her own burdens."

And a good read it was, too. Early editors had a marvellously broad idea of what constituted housekeeping. Some of the content is obvious to us now; it is still the basic model of a women's magazine: "To have beauty around us . . . to have good food without monotony, and good service without jangled tempers . . . art, music, drama . . . a modern kitchen has been installed and there every recipe before being printed will be tested . . . a French fashion service . . . house decoration . . . wholesome fiction."

And an advert for Helena Rubinstein's beauty creams reminds us that "no one is able to make a home so desirable to live in or visit as a *really pretty* woman".

Then we have Lady Astor, MP, on the dangers of drink: "The interest of the liquor trade is to sell as much of its goods as possible. Yet no one would say that it was in the interest of the community to have the largest possible consumption of alcohol."

The excitable novelist Marie Corelli wrote about men's problems with "the new assertiveness of the creature that he has always considered his natural-born slave — Woman . . . She can, if she likes, do without him". And she advises (remember, this is 1922): "Women who desire to attain the fulfilment of the best that is in them, never to lend themselves to any exploitation by the 'low' press."

Clemence Dane, on the subject of divorce, pointed out that "those whom God had joined let no man put asunder". We must remember that God is Love, and if there is no love between them then God has not joined them. "It is a better thing," she wrote, "to . . . puzzle our way through the moral, social and religious difficulties of our age than to be carried along in the Rolls-Royce of ready-made and handed-down opinions."

Contributors included Evelyn Waugh, Virginia Woolf, Vera Brittain (on the shoddy misery of a single girl's life in a single room); Ogden Nash, Rebecca West (asking Can a Married Woman have a Career outside her Home?), C.S. Forester and Daphne du Maurier.

> 'No one can make a home so desirable to live in or visit as a really pretty woman'

Lady Violet Bonham Carter wrote eloquently about life in London and in the country ("If one is going to live in a town, obviously it must be London. For smoke, dirt, noise, fog, density of houses, traffic and people, what town can beat it?"). And about life in a suburb: "There surely can never be an atmosphere of romance."

Alongside is a riveting record of daily life: from the advertisements (the Acme Cabinet Wringer Mangle, 84 shillings) to a detailed article on how a Cornish vicar's wife manages without a maid on £370 a year in 1932.

Here is a sample: 7am, air bed, do bathroom, make bed, do bedroom, mop landings, brush stairs, sweep hall and porch, clean brasses, mop and dust hall. Do breakfast room and lay, prepare and cook breakfast. 9.30am: Wash up, black-lead the grate, wash the hearth, make up the fire, empty the bucket under the sink and light the incinerator . . . I do all the washing in an old-fashioned wash-house with a copper . . . I have a vacuum washer which I work up and down . . ."

Then, housekeeping was the scrubbing of wooden tables, the weekly cleaning of brushes, the military precision of spring-cleaning and "spring sewing", the soda, borax and alum, the "wearisome task of cleaning bedsprings if it is done with a duster rather than an enamelling brush, for both wet and dry processes". (In place of all this, I have a packet of J-Cloths.)

At one moment you are wondering what they are on about; the next page you see a sentence which you read every week in modern magazines.

The 75th anniversary of *Good Housekeeping*, out this month, is running old adverts and new, side by side, from companies which advertised in the magazine in the 1920s: Persil, L'Oreal, Palmolive. *Plus ça change* in so many ways.

There are two big changes. The heavy work is gone. These old magazines make it abundantly clear how much central heating, electric light and the vacuum cleaner have changed our lives.

And, as importantly, although we still do our comparatively undemanding chores because we have to, we do not necessarily stake our honour on how well we do them. If we do choose to make a thing of our homes, we — men and women — do it as "home makers", not housekeepers.

"It has connotations of leisure and creativity," says Ms Roberts Cairns.

But although home-making may have its pantheon, from Sir Terence Conran to Marcia Stewart, we do not have to worship it the way we used to, kneeling in front of the dirty grate.

● Good Housekeeping: Every Home Should Have One — 75 Years of Change in the Home by Jan Boxshall (Ebury Press, £16.99). Ebury Press has also published four volumes of The Best of Good Housekeeping.

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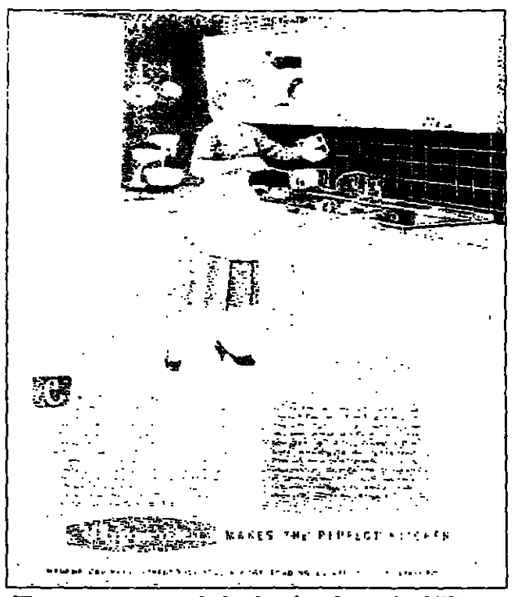
Magazines today guide us in the more leisurely, creative direction of "home-making" rather than housekeeping



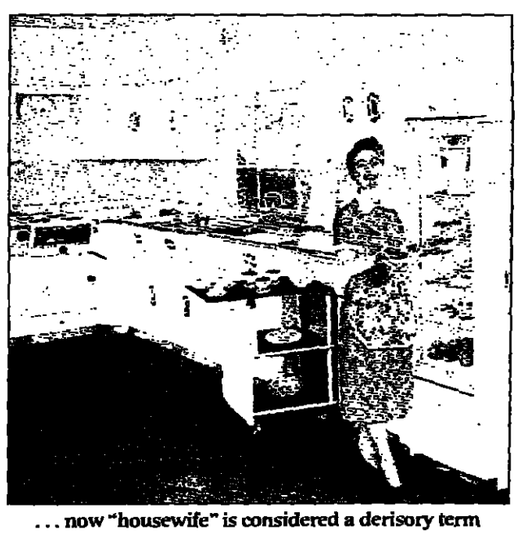
In came the Hoover and out went the heavy work



The early dishwasher



Then, a woman was judged on her domestic ability . . .



. . . now "housewife" is considered a derisory term

READ ON

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING has a lead of around 100,000 over its main competitors. Circulation is 440,655 with a readership of 2.2 million compared its main rivals — *Sainsbury's, The Magazine*, circulation 361,109 and IPC Magazines' *Ideal Home*, circulation 217,969. Other main rivals are *Woman and Home, Homes and Gardens and Family Circle but Home and Life, delivered by the milkman, is a hot* new competitor.

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Pittu Laungani explains how the Islamic ritual of burial and grieving differs from the Christian

From wailful dirges to gentle tears

The nation mourns today as never before. The shock of Diana, Princess of Wales's death alongside Dodi Fayed's, and the subsequent anger, has been replaced by grief and a reluctant acceptance that life must continue without them.

Fayed's burial within 24 hours of his death conformed to Muslim tradition and his father, Mohamed Al Fayed, will find comfort in his faith — a faith imbued over the 14 centuries since Mohammad founded Islam.

Mr Al Fayed and, indeed, Muslims all over the world "know" that this joint death was fated. It was the Will of Allah! *Insh Allah!* God willed it so. And it is from this belief that the bereaved shall take sustenance and succour — a belief embedded in the psyche of nearly one billion Muslims spread across the world, which allows them to come to terms with and triumph over life's adversities. The belief is one of the strengths of Islam.

Fayed's body, in accordance with Islamic religious tradition, was brought back to England by his father. Islamic religious custom dictates that funeral rites shall be performed within 24 hours of death. The prophet Mohammed died on a Monday (June 8, AD 632) and was buried within 24 hours, and Muslims have taken his lead. The harsh heat of the Arabian deserts also necessitates a speedy disposal of a corpse.

The funeral ceremony of Muslims — Fayed's would have been no exception — is simple, a simplicity which makes it extremely moving. The body is laid out on a hard surface and is washed. The ablutions are normally performed by the close members of the deceased, who also participate in the final internment of the body. In exceptional cases professionals are employed for the purpose.

As a rule, it is only men who wash a man's body, and women, a woman's body. The body is then shrouded from head to toe in at least three pieces of clean, white cloth, in such a way that the head can be freed later on. Care is taken to ensure that there are no knots or any sewing on the cloth, because this might obstruct the liberation of the soul. Just before burial, a short ceremony takes place, in the mosque or at the graveside, where relatives and friends gather to bid their private farewells to the deceased, forgiving and begging forgiveness. This is followed by saying a prayer for the dead.

The burial is generally a man's affair, although in recent years women have started to accompany the funeral procession. Men invariably perform the final funeral rites.

> 'Islamic funerals are marked by spontaneity, Christian by concern for order and precision'

At the graveside, the shrouded body is taken out of its coffin and lowered down with shawls and lengths of cloth. The corpse is turned towards the right, its closed eyes facing Mecca, its feet facing south. Wooden boards are placed on top of the body, and the grave is filled by all the mourners, to the accompaniment of verses recited from the Koran by the Imam. The mourners leave, the Imam stays behind, offering his final prayers for the departed soul. Islamic beliefs in an afterlife are founded on the notion of retribution and resurrection. The Koran speaks of the day of the Great Rising, *yaum al-qiyamah*, when the Book of Deeds will be read, the heavens will open, the good will enter paradise and the wicked shall spend a life in hell.

While Islamic funerals are marked by their spontaneity and urgency, Christian funerals are dominated by concern for order, precision and dignity. The service usually takes place a week or so after death and the family is consulted about the choice of readings and hymns. Dignity is maintained by keeping emotions strictly in check — behaviour that is virtually non-existent outside the Christian world.

The Muslim faith is unshakeable. Among Christians there is room for dissent and occasional doubt, but the Muslim belief in the afterlife is indomitable. What actually happens to the body is open to interpretation in the Koran — some believe that the body corrupts and the spirit leaves it; others say that the body itself takes the spirit into the afterlife.

Islam means surrender, and almost all mourners at a Muslim ceremony believe in surrendering themselves to the will of Allah. Most of those at a Christian funeral are less likely to have such fundamental faith and the ceremony may prove less cathartic as a result.

Reactions to the loss of loved ones do not always follow a known pattern among Muslims, but it is not uncommon for women to swoon, beat their breasts and scratch their faces. Their unrestrained grief may find an outlet in long-winded, wailful dirges, which are pierced from time to time by crying and shrieking.

On occasions, the services of a professional mourner, usually female, are sought to hasten the process of mourning. She takes it upon herself to talk of the deceased, sing mournful dirges, recite verses from the Koran and, with the consummate skill of a professional performer, persuades the bereaved members in the family to cry without restraint.

Today, as the Princess is lowered into her grave, there will be no need for a professional mourner. The tears of individuals from every denomination will be flowing.

● *Dr Pittu Laungani is Reader in Psychology at South Bank University and co-editor of* Death and Bereavement Across Cultures *(1997 London, Routledge, £15.95).*

AFP



A Muslim woman reads the Koran at her sister's grave. In recent years, women have started to attend the burial, once a male preserve

Credo

A time for us to mourn

Nigel McCulloch

Grief is a powerful emotion, and Shakespeare's advice in *Macbeth* remains true:

"*Give sorrow words. The grief that does not speak*
Whispers the o'erfraught heart, and bids it break"

Today, a grief that has pierced the nation's heart will bind us together even more closely as we watch the final earthly journey of this people's princess.

The words spoken at the service in Westminster Abbey will help us to focus that grief and to come to terms with a tragedy that has affected everyone.



McCulloch: "Shared tears"

There is a real need for us to mourn, as the piles of flowers and cards, and the silent queues of young and old have so graphically shown. But the expressing of grief needs more than words. The music and ceremony, the majesty and simplicity that will shape this unique occasion will play their part in helping us to cope with our bereavement — and to glimpse something of the hope that always lies beyond despair.

In the *Old Testament*, Ecclesiastes reminded us:

"*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven . . . a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.*

The emotions of today touch deep wells of grief in many of us, not least through the memories, or present experiences, of weeping and mourning in the bereavements we suffer in our own families and friendships.

Nor must we forget those for whom this day has long been planned as a time of joy — for a wedding or anniversary. For them there will be a tangle of emotions as the nation mourns one who would least have wanted to dampen the natural happiness of their day.

But most of us will form part of the congregation of millions around the world, drawn together by our common need to mourn.

We will be helped to reflect on Diana's life — and the way in which, despite the failings which, like many of us, she had, this unique Princess was blessed with a gift for making others feel unique too.

At times clearly vulnerable and unhappy, she never lost the ability and genuine desire to be alongside the weak and the marginalised — a beacon of light to those in despair. To many she was indeed an ambassador of the love of God. We will surround her family, and especially the two young Princes, with our love and our prayers, asking that God give them courage and strength for today; and the comfort they will need for the proper expressing of their grief.

And finally we will commend Diana to God in sure hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Words adapted from the ancient Liturgy of St Chrysostom put our prayerful thoughts well:

"*Grant her rest in the land of the living, in the joy of Paradise, whence all pain and grief have fled away.*"

Tears do not come to order, but our innermost feelings need to find their natural expression. As the memory of today's service fades, it will be the spontaneous hugs, the compassionate touch, the shared tears — to which Diana gave such encouragement — that in her death will sustain and comfort us.

● *The Rt Rev Nigel McCulloch is the Bishop of Wakefield.*

Choirs weave a rich musical magic

Ruth Gledhill hears a storming performance of Monteverdi's Vespers at the Three Choirs Festival in Hereford Cathedral



THE NIGHT before, as choral evensong came to an end, a freak whirlwind uprooted a 40ft sycamore in the grounds of Hereford cathedral. For our sellout performance of Monteverdi's Vespers, the weather had calmed down outside. But inside the cathedral it was hot and steamy, and the glorious, crashing waves of this composition of vespers, the sixth of the seven canonical hours, seemed as much a tribute to the weather as to God.

As if weaving a musical version of a rich, red and gold Elizabethan tapestry, the choirs of Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford, with soloists Catherine Bott, Charles Daniels, Simon Birchall and others, led by conductor Roy Goodman, sang the powerful Latin chant as it might have been peformed when composed in 1610. *Nigra sum sed formosa filia Ierusalem*, we heard.



Hereford: a haven of music

Ideo dilexit me Rex, et introduxit in cubiculum suum et dixit mihi: Surge, amica mea, et veni. Or: "I am a black but beautiful daughter of Jerusalem. So the King loved me, and led me in to his bedroom and said to me: Arise, my love, and come away." The Vespers was a highlight of this year's Three Choirs Festival, the oldest musical festival in Europe, founded more than 250 years ago. Most of the people present were middle-aged or older, and might have been the parents of the choristers, or of the younger generations deserting traditional music for the contemporary attractions of the Edinburgh Festival, taking place at about the same time.

We began with a prayer, followed by Psalm 110, *Dixit Dominus*, and then Psalm 113, *Laudate pueri*. "He makes a home for the barren woman, a joyful mother of children," we heard.

The Three Choirs Festival was founded by a chancellor of Hereford and is today an integral part of the life of the three cathedrals. The Dean and Chapter are on hand throughout to chat and entertain visitors, many of which stay in the city throughout and attend many of the dozens of concerts, services and fringe events revolving around the cathedral at the centre.

But the church was not always so hospitable. One former Dean of Hereford described it as "the abominable festival", and removed the key to the choir, thus preventing visitors from sitting in their favourite part of the cathedral. And on another occasion, at Worcester, the Dean and Chapter banned any productions not strictly worship. By the turn of the century, Elgar was involved and the support of the civic authorities rescued it from oblivion.

The festival is now facing the new challenges, such as secularism, and growing competition from other summer musical events. Yet Monteverdi's Vespers was sold out by spring this year, a sign that the demand for religious music in its traditional, ecclesiastical setting remains strong. Although more difficult to listen to and enjoy than modern church music or traditional Benedictine chant, this was part of what made it at the end a satisfying and rewarding experience.

● *Hereford Cathedral, The Cloisters, Hereford HR1 2NG (01432 359888).*

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LITURGY: Five Marian psalms framed by antiphons, sacred songs, a hymn and the *Magnificat*. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Hard work, but I did my best. ★★★★★

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Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch; 6.30 Ch E.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Sancte Albano (Healey Willan). *The Chancellor; 3.15 Ch E, Cantate Domino* (Pitoni).

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Boreol Weddi; 11 Euch, The Dean; 3.15 Thanksgiving for Diana, Princess of Wales, Bishop of Bangor.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch. Missa collegium regale (Howells); 3.30 Ch E, Noble in B minor.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, O taste and see (*Vaughan Williams*), *Ven J Barton*; 4 Ch E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Canon Galilee; 4 Ch E: Ave Maria (Rachmaninov), Canon Hall.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 H Euch; 11 H Euch, Canon E Wastell; 3.30 E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Canon Alastair Redfern; 3.30 Ch E, Canon John Simpson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Ave Maria (*Rachmaninov*), *Rev M Hayton; 3.15 E*, Responses (Rose); 6.30 Compline, Rev J Thackray.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Bread of heaven (Wadely), Canon C Hill; 3 E.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Canon D Knight; 6 Ch E, Responses (Rose).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Euch, The Dean; 11.30 Ch M, Te Deum in G (Sumsion), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Ch E, 6.30 ES, *Canon T Dennis*.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, How beautiful upon the mountains (Stainer), 11 S Euch, Rev M Maddocks; 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Rev B Castle; 11.15 S Euch, Canon Ward; 6 E, St Paul's Service (Howells).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Badings); 5 Ch E, Te lucis ante terminum (Strategier).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Comfort, O Lord (Crotch), Canon S Barby; 6 Ch E, Stanford in G, Rev Canon G Marshall.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, *O* thou the central orb (Wood), Canon S Pedley; 11.15 HC, Canon D Brown; 3.30 E, Ave Maria (Bruckner).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn), Rev Canon J Inge; 3.45 E.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D major (Mozart), The Treasurer; 11.15 M; 3 E; 6.30 ES, Rev G Daxter.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.15 Euch; The Dean; 3 E, Oculi Omnium (Wood).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Canon Dr M Palmer; 11.15 M, My eyes for beauty pine (Howells), Canon D Bryant; 6.30 E, Canon J Schofield.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, The Bishop of Ludlow; 11.30 M, The Lord is King (Boyce); 3.30 E, Rev Preb R Sharp.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Sumsion in F, The Chancellor; 4 Ch E, The Precentor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, Responses (Harris).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, The Precentor; 11.15 M, O thou, the central orb (Wood); 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Canon N Chamberlain.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon *M Boyling*; 3, *Diana, Princess of Wales: A Service of Memories and Consolation*, Rt Rev D Sheppard; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M and L; 8 Euch, The Dean; 9 Parish Euch, Rev R L Ford; 11 S Euch, Rev M R E Tomlinson; 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Ch E; 6.30 Parish E, Rev Dr J C Baldwin.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Canon J Atherton; 6.30 E, Let all the world in every corner sing (Vaughan Williams).

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Canon I Bennett; 6 Ch E, Sumsion in A.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch; *6.30 Ch E, Drychafaf fy Llygaid* (Hopkin Evans).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Canon M Perham; 3.30 E; 6 Royal British Legion Service.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, The Chancellor; 3.30 E, Christ, whose glory fills the skies (Darke).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C, 11 S Euch, 6.30 E, Canon J Hedges.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: *8 Euch; 9.30 Euch;* 11.30 M, Te Deum (Smart in F), O sing joyfully (Barnes); 12.30 Euch, Canon E Eason; 5.30 E, Rev D Murfet.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, If ye love me (Tallis), Canon E Turner; 3.15 E, Stanford in A.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Durston; 10 Euch of Requiem (Fauré), 11.30 M; 3 E, Canon D Durston.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Rev K Jones; 6.30 E, Stanford in A.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, 11 Ch Euch, Thy Mercy, Jehovah (Marcello); 3 Ch E; 6.30 Ch Euch.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Darke in F; 6 E, Canon A Neal.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Brevis in C (Mozart), Rev R Lewis; 11.30 M; 3 E, Christus factus est (Bruckner).

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 10 M, Rev Dr D Grey; 11 S Euch, Rev P Cowell; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Rev J Goodall; 3 E, Rev C Irvine; 3.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES, Rev D Hutt.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Canon P Morgan; 11.30 Sung E, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams); 3.30 E, Rev Dr D Edwards.

YORK MINSTER: 8 HC; 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch; 11.30 S Euch, Darke in F; 4 Service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Diana, Princess of Wales, The Archbishop.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, The Canon in Residence; 3.30 Memorial Service: Diana, Princess of Wales.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon M Shaw; 10 Ch M Euch, Canon *S Pettit; 11.30 M; 3.30 Ch Euch.*

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass; 5 EP & Benediction; 6 HM.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 HC, Rev D K Robertson; 10 HC, Rev W P Graham, 11.30 MS, Rev W P Graham; 8 ES, Rev J Williams.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), Rev J Cuthbert; 3.30 Ch E, Fauxbourdons (Moore).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, Adoramus te Jesu Christe (Handl), Rev R Frazer; 6 HC, Rev R Frazer.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 Memorial Service for Diana, Princess of Wales; 3.15 Ch E, Prevent us, O Lord (Byrd), Canon K W Cochrane.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Heileg ist der Herr (Schubert), Rev J Lees; 3.15 E, Canon J Halliburton.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9.30, 11.30 Rev R Trist; 6.30 Rt Rev M Baughen.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 C, Rev Dr P Elvy; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30 E.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, Rev R Thorpe; 11 C, Rev S Millar; 5 Inf Service, Rev N Lee; 7.30 Inf Service, Rev N Lee.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11 Mass; 12.30; 3.30 Vespers & Benediction; 4.30; 7.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 HC, Rev J Lampard.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege; 2 Swahili HC, Preacher Rev A Sebahene.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, The Rector; 6.30 E, The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M and Euch; 6.30 Ch E, Canon J Oates.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W A Cairns, 6.30 Rev W A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 9 Mass; 11 Sung Mass.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, Rev J Paul.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 HC, 6.30 EP, Rev M Okello.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 C; 11 S Euch, Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 10 M; 11 S Euch, Rev P Cowell; 3 E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert; 11.30 Visitors to London Service; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES, Rev F Claringbull.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli; 11.15 Ch M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 E, Rev M Fuller.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev S Chrystal; 6 EP.

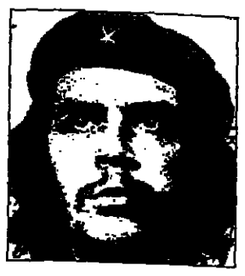
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Euch; 11 S Euch, Fr D B Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M; 6.30 E, Preb M McGowan.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 HC, Rev L E M Claxton.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, The Chaplain.



Thirty years after his death, Che lives on

Cuba · 20

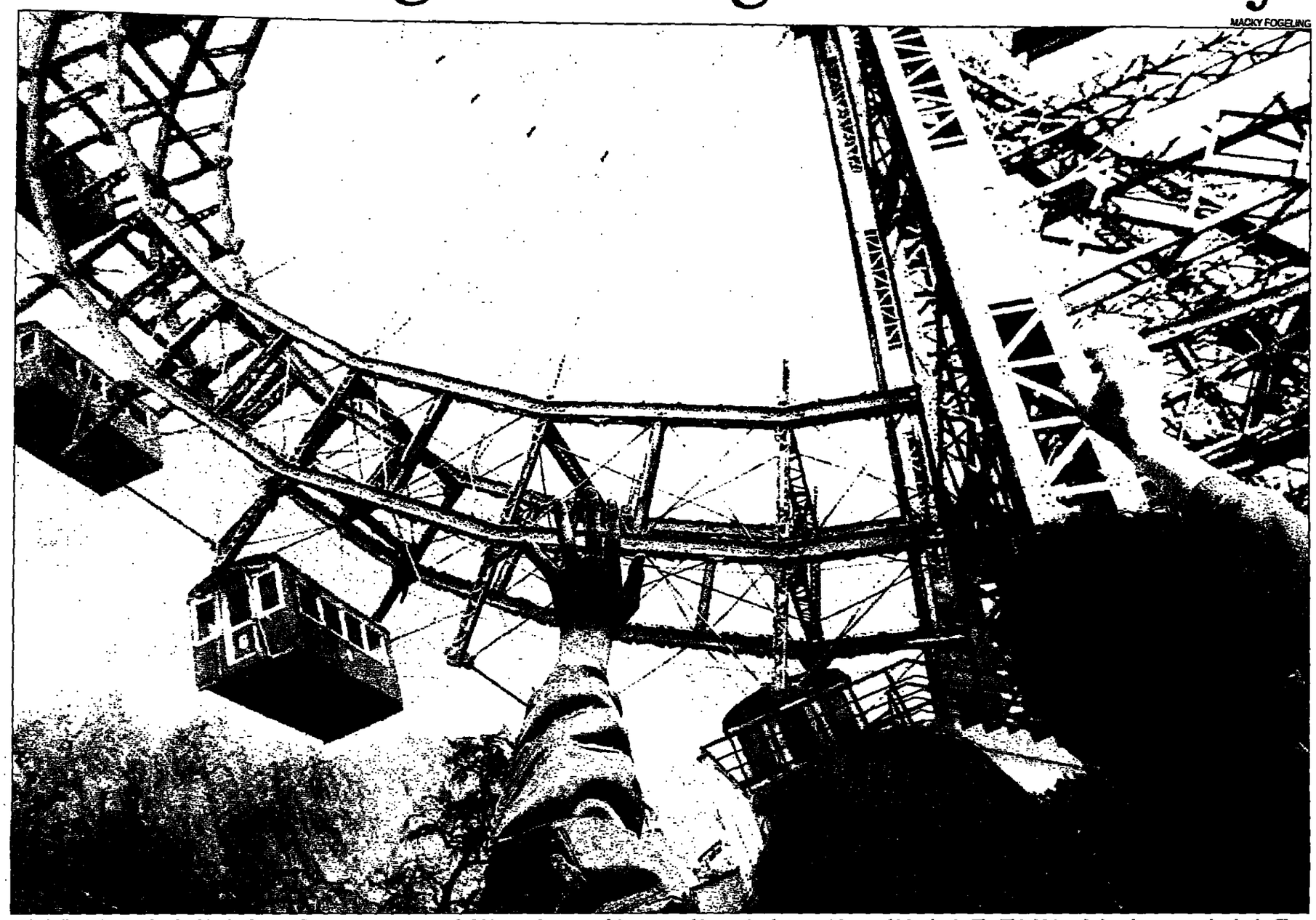
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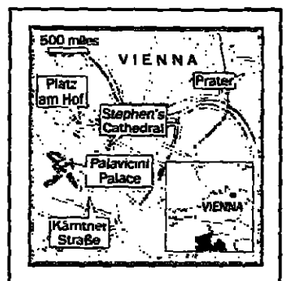
Car hire · 22



Searching for the ghost of Harry Lime



MACKY FOGELING



Circle line: The Ferris wheel in the Prater, Vienna's amusement park. This was the scene of the memorable meeting between Lime and Martins in *The Third Man*, their only conversation in the film

Oliver August goes to Vienna to see if he can rekindle memories of Graham Greene's tale of *The Third Man*

Graham Greene famously changed the course of cinematography with a single sentence, scribbled on the flap of an envelope: "I had paid my last farewell to Harry a week ago, when his coffin was lowered into the frozen February ground, so that it was with incredulity that I saw him pass by, without a sign of recognition, among a host of strangers in the Strand."

Harry's full name is Harry Lime, played by Orson Welles in Sir Carol Reed's film *The Third Man*. Greene transposed the scene he had dreamt up in London from the Strand to postwar Vienna and created a haunting thriller as well as a treatise on morality and friendship. Unwittingly, Greene also wrote the best travel guide to Vienna, even if — or maybe because — it is 50 years out of date.

Half a century later, on another grey and chilly morning, I arrived in Vienna clutching a paperback copy of *The Third Man*. My interest in Greene's pre-Cold War drama had recently been reawakened by a small newspaper article. Hollywood apparently wanted to film an updated remake starring Jack Nicholson as Harry Lime and Tom Hanks as Rollo Martins, the friend who ends up hunting Lime after his funeral turns out to be a fake. So far, so good.

But imagine this. "The new version will be set in 1990s Berlin, not postwar Vienna, and instead of being involved in the penicillin racket, Harry Lime will use Russian child prostitutes to transfer toxic materials to arms dealers," the article said. The new plot sounded horrific, but changing the venue was sacrilege. I headed to Vienna to discover why city and story are inextricably linked.

In 1947, Greene was strolling around the bombed-out city on a scouting trip arranged by the film producer Sir Alexander Korda and Carol Reed, the director. Greene spotted most of the locations for *The Third Man* on this first trip. His letters mention the cemetery, the sewers and the cafés, plus other places too seedy to feature in the sombre film.

He also witnessed the absurdity of the four-power administration of Vienna. Greene immortalised the postwar atmosphere of suspicion and fear in his descriptions of the four-power patrol vehicles, each staffed by a Russian, a French, an American and a British soldier.

Stripped to its roots and stumps by Allied bombings, Vienna revealed its true colours to Greene. Today the sleepy Austrian capital is cloaked in all the luxury drapings that came with peace and prosperity. The only leftover from Russian occupation is the continued existence of hammer and sickle on the Austrian flag.

But in the late 1940s, Vienna's soul was exposed. Its wealth had been destroyed, its citizens were sickly and the desperately needed penicillin was sold on the black market by characters like Harry Lime. Vienna was a morbid, dark and enigmatic place. Greene, burdened by Catholic guilt, needed little encouragement to portray it.

RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE



The trouble with Harry: Joseph Cotten as Rollo Martins

As Greene himself might have done, I strolled down the Kärtnerstrasse, Vienna's main shopping street, where Martins first heard about Lime's dubious death in a small bar which "only really had one drink — a sweet chocolate liqueur that the waiter improved at a price with cognac". The bar had gone, of course.

The Kärtnerstrasse today looks like Oxford Street minus the London buses. Wealthy, smartly dressed burghers push past the pristine wares. Capitalism wiped out the black market. A four-power domination of sorts, however, still exists. The scents are French, the toys German, the sports kit American, the underwear British. M&S sits directly opposite St Stephen's Cathedral.

I was looking for the one prop that the story of *The Third Man* could not do without — the hollow advertising kiosks, probably the only public monuments left untouched by Allied bombings. These are 10ft-high circular billboards, and in *The Third Man* they had hidden doors that gave access to Vienna's labyrinthine sewerage system. Harry Lime used the sewers to get around the city undetected by the four-power patrols, wading knee-deep through the echoing tunnels. But the kiosks had disappeared along with the ruins and the rubble.

I desperately needed some local expertise. Through the tourism bureau I found Elke Pittersberger, a charming guide in her late twenties. Thankfully, she shared my obsession with black-and-white 1940s celluloid. We exchanged titbits of wisdom about how Greene had only written the book as "raw material" for the film. "*The Third Man* was never written to be read — only seen," she quoted Greene.

She took me to the Platz am Hof, where the Babenberg family, founders of the first Austrian empire, had resided. In the middle of the square we found the last remaining kiosk. I was euphoric — although I searched unsuccessfully for a secret door.

From there Elke took me right to the beginning of the story, to Lime's flat where Martins is told about Lime's funeral. The scene was filmed at the sumptuous Palavicini Palace opposite the famous Spanish Riding School. Waving my arms around, I inspected the location. I formed a rectangle with my hands and looked through the lens-like hole while spinning around. Great panoramic shots. Maybe we should put the camera over there . . . but what are those tourists doing in my film?

My imaginary debut as a director was going to my head. My film needed a touch of modernity, I pondered on the way to the Prater, Vienna's amusement park with its famous Ferris wheel, built by the British engineer Walter Basset in 1897. *The Third Man*'s most memorable scene was filmed here, the only conversation between Lime and Martins in the entire story.

Opposite the wheel there now stands a ride called the Imperator, a stomach-churning blur of purple, orange and green with flashing lights. Next to the grandfatherly Ferris wheel, it looked like a dysfunctional youth from the punk era. Were I to make a spiced-up version of the film, Lime and Martins would probably ride this vehicle wearing cyber-goggles while discussing the ethical implications of feeding British beef to the maddeningly serene Austrians.

Now for the finale. Access to the sewers is blocked, but Elke took me as close as you can get. By the Stadtpark underground station, the dirty stream emerges from the dark labyrinth through the mouth of a giant Art Deco tunnel. The situation is more grotesque than picturesque. The pompous architects who redesigned most of Vienna at the turn of the century thought nothing of decorating the entrance to the sewers in the same style as the Kaiser's residence.

In a vain attempt to reach the tunnel, Lime's inner sanctum of the underworld, I began to climb down a brick wall above a vantage point from where I was hoping to leap the last few yards. Elke had assured me that the airy tunnel did not smell despite the load it was carrying. "It's got wind," she had said, possibly aware of the pun. Greene even wrote: "The main stream smells sweet and fresh with a faint tang of ozone, and everywhere in the darkness is the sound of falling and rushing water."

I never reached it. By missing a step, I adorned the front of my shirt with layers of mud. I retreated to the café at the Hotel Sacher, where Martins had stayed — and where Greene himself was a guest when plotting his story. Looking through my imaginary director's diary, now a wet and filthy booklet, I concluded that my version of *The Third Man* would be a rather miserable film. The sewers were inaccessible, the moral dilemmas had gone and the streets had been rebuilt with no respect for the drama projected by postwar ruins.

On the brighter side, I had enjoyed a historical tour of Vienna long on thrills and short on travel guide histrionics. And, like Martins, I had met a beautiful Viennese woman. Carrying Greene's paperback guide to Vienna, I wandered off, humming Anton Karas's haunting melody from the film.

FACT FILE

- Oliver August travelled with the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).
- Getting there: Three nights at a three-star hotel with Austria Travel (0171-222 2430) costs £314 B&B in September, flying from Heathrow. Travelscene (0181-427 4445) has a similar deal from Gatwick for £350. Return flights in September from £219 with Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7300) and from £213 with British Airways (0345 222111), both from Heathrow. Lauda Air (0171-630 5924) flies from Manchester for £209 return or from Gatwick for £178, if you stay a Saturday night.
- Hotels: The five-star Sacher Hotel, *1 Philharmonikerstrasse* 4 (00 431 51456), has single rooms for £135 a night and doubles from £216; prices include breakfast and are valid until March.
- Trips to the *Third Man* sights, including Harry Lime's sewers at Friedensbrücke, are organised by Dr Brigette Timmermann and Dr Friederike Mayr (00 431 774 8901) for £7.90.
- Literary Vienna: *The Third Man*, by Graham Greene, (Penguin (£5.99). Other novels set there include *Setting Free the Bears* by John Irving, *The Last Waltz in Vienna* by George Clare, *The Saddest Summer of Samuel S* by J. P. Donleavy, *Morality and Mercy in Vienna* by Thomas Pynchon.
- Concerts: Schubert, Haydn, Mozart and Strauss concerts are held in September and October; details from the tourist board (0171-629 0461; Vienna office: Kärntnerstrasse 38).
- Guides: *City Guide: Vienna* (Lonely Planet Publications, £5.95); *Eyewitness Guide to Vienna* (Dorling Kindersley, £12).



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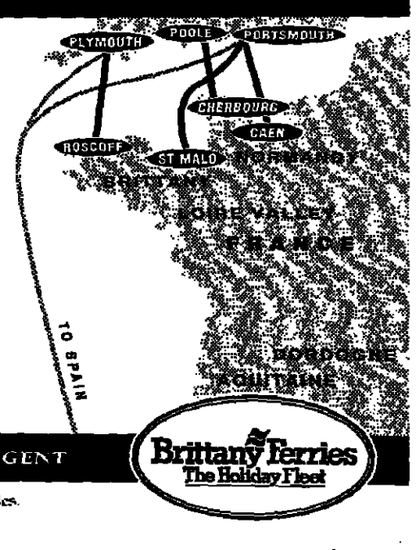
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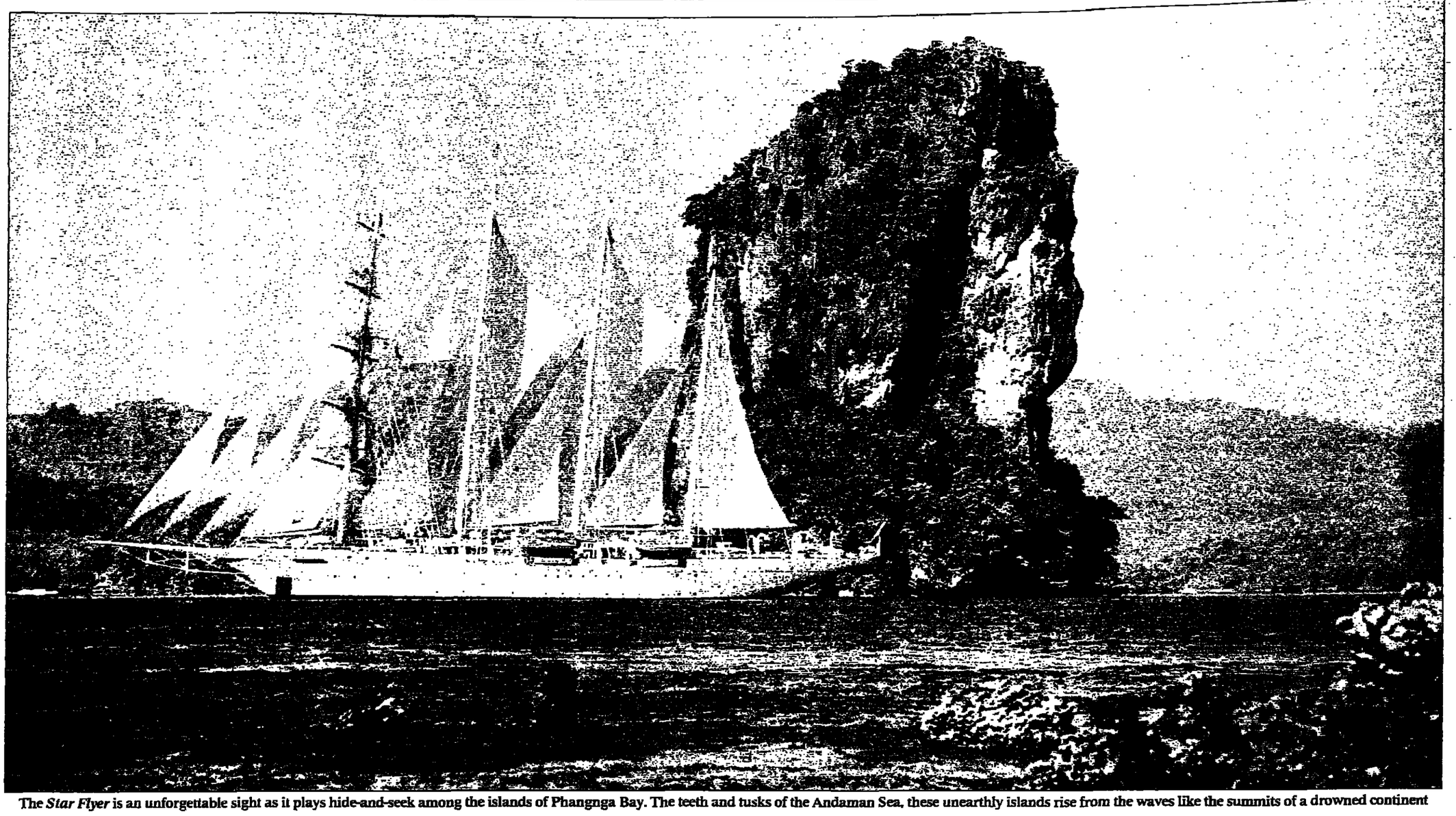
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The *Star Flyer* is an unforgettable sight as it plays hide-and-seek among the islands of Phangnga Bay. The teeth and tusks of the Andaman Sea, these unearthly islands rise from the waves like the summits of a drowned continent

Whispers of sails and tropical secrets

A cruise aboard the Star Flyer combines the thrill of sailing the world's tallest ship with the pleasures of a romantic cruise, says **Brian Jackman**

SINGAPORE, that skyscraper city of the future on Asia's booming Pacific Rim, is the world's busiest seaport. Every day more than 400 vessels anchor in its busy roadsteads, but ours was the only tall ship in sight.

The order came to hoist sail. The northeast monsoon wind was blowing, little more than a languid tropical night breeze, but enough to take us out into the vast harbour, its horizon ringed with ships' lights. Our topgallant sails shone ghostly white in the moonlight, but this was no phantom from the days of Conrad. She was the *Star Flyer*, a four-masted barquentine, built in Belgium only six years ago.

Since then she has been steadily expanding her horizons, from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean. Now she has gone the extra mile, to cruise the Far Eastern waters of the Malacca Straits and the Andaman Sea, from Singapore to Phuket, in Thailand.

With all 16 sails set to catch every last nuance of the monsoon breeze, the 2,556-tonne *Star Flyer* is everyone's dream of a tall ship. From stem to stern she measures 360ft. Her main mast is 220ft tall — taller than Nelson's column — making her and her sister ship, *Star Clipper*, the tallest tall ships the world has ever seen.

In her lines and sail plan, she is no different from the hard-driving clippers that battled around Cape Horn at the turn of the century, but there the similarity ends. From end to end she is stuffed with high-tech nautical gizmos.

Cruising aboard the *Star Flyer* offers what the travel trade likes to call "soft adventure", with the accent on soft. Certainly there is nothing spartan about her air-conditioned cabins, twin swimming pools, fine dining and smooth-as-silk service.

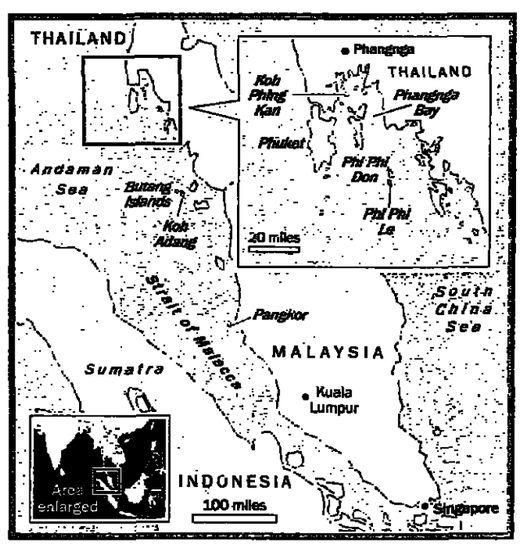
Yet even in the millpond conditions of the Andaman Sea, the thrill of sailing on a tall ship is undeniable. This is not your average, impersonal floating hotel. There are a maximum of 170 passengers, far fewer than any cruise ship. Lie out under her bowsprit in the widows' nets with the waves beneath and a cloud of canvas above, and you recognise her for what she is: a living, breathing being.

And who better to be the master of her soul than Captain Charisma, alias Gerhard Lickfett, the last man in the German Merchant Navy to be trained on a working square rigger. Dressed in immaculate tropical whites, with his lean good looks and thousand-mile stare, Captain Lickfett and the *Star Flyer* are a perfect marriage.

Born in Gdansk in 1937, he escaped from wartime Germany just ahead of the Russians, travelling by horse and cart with his mother and six siblings to find safety in a Danish refugee camp. But the day that truly changed his life came ten years later, when he saw the four-masted barque *Pamir* heading down the English Channel under full sail. Within weeks he had signed on as a deck boy aboard her sister ship, the *Passat*.

Morning found us cruising north through the Malacca Straits in a sea so calm that I could see flying fish dancing on their tails over its polished surface. To the east, jungle-clad islands rose from the water like the dorsal fins of giant fishes, with the Malay peninsula beyond.

At their narrowest point these waters are about 20 miles across. On the Malaysian side the navigation chart warns of 13-metre sand waves, a treacherous maze of shifting banks. On the Sumatran side, countless fish traps march out from the mangrove channels; and in between lies the world's busiest shipping lane, linking the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea.





Captain Lickfett, right: a passion for square riggers

Pangkor was our first landfall, a Malaysian island of coral sand beaches where fish eagles circled over steep, rainforested hillsides. Once, this was a pirates' lair; now fishing and tourism are Pangkor's mainstays.

One of the joys of cruising aboard the *Star Flyer* is her ability to visit places that other cruise ships cannot reach. In the Butang Islands, one of Thailand's most remote archipelagos, we were ferried ashore by Zodiac inflatable dinghy to the deserted Koh Adang. Here, Crusoes for the day, we went beachcombing for cowrie shells, padding barefoot across drifts of sand as soft as talc, snorkelling among swarms of reef fish.

The colours of these tropical seas are beautiful beyond belief: emerald clear in the shallows, purple and indigo where coral-heads blossom in the deeps. Yet no matter how romantic our surroundings, the *Star Flyer* enhanced every anchorage we visited. Outlined against a backdrop of jungle-clad hills, the sight of her white hull and four yellow masts never failed to stir the emotions.

Anchored off the Thai island of Phi Phi Don, she lay beneath sheer limestone cliffs in a bay as green as Chinese jade, while traditional Thai longtail boats with Viking-style prows and noisy outboards puttered around us, heading for the tourist beaches.

Six years ago, said Captain Lickfett, Phi Phi Don was almost as deserted as Koh Adang. Of course, it could not last. It was simply too beautiful to remain unknown forever. Today it has package hotels, reggae bars and beachside restaurants, but prices are still reasonable. A starlit supper of spicy Thai seafood — fish soup with lemon grass, curried prawns, grilled kingfish cooked with ginger — still costs less than £6 a head.

No wonder these islands are such a hit with the backpackers. On Phi Phi's beautiful Long Beach, I spoke to a couple of young Danes sunbathing outside their rented wooden hut. "To stay here costs just 125 baht (£2.25) a night," one told me. "I never knew paradise could be so cheap."

Across the water I could see a smaller island, Phi Phi Le, renowned for an industry even more lucrative than tourism. Here, in limestone caverns the size of cathedral naves, millions of swallows flutter and climbers risk their lives to harvest the nests for Chinese bird's-nest soup. So highly prized is this bizarre delicacy that the best nests can fetch $2,000 (£1,250) a kilo in Hong Kong, and the caves are guarded by gunmen.

Next day we took to the Zodiacs again to photograph the *Star Flyer* as she played hide-and-seek among the islands of Phangnga Bay, near Phuket, in what must surely be the world's most beautiful cruising grounds. These unearthly islands, the teeth and tusks of the Andaman Sea, rise from the waves like the summits of a drowned continent.

In places their weather-stained cliffs have been undercut by the sea or pierced by dripping caves encrusted with stalactites; and in the heat haze which paints everything a hundred shades of blue, the bay has the dreamlike quality of a willow pattern landscape.

Phangnga's most famous landmark is the limestone monolith of Koh Phing Kan — better known as James Bond Island since *The Man with the Golden Gun* was filmed there.

But I preferred our visit to Koh Pannyi, a Muslim fishing village built on stilts, like a scene from *Lord Jim* with narrow boardwalks in place of streets, winding unsteadily between a warren of houses where huge Ali Baba jars caught rainwater from the tin roofs and bobtailed cats hunted for leftovers among the restaurant tables.

Back on board the *Star Flyer*, we set sail for Phuket, our final port of call. As always, this manoeuvre was accompanied by the Vangelis theme music from the Columbus film, *1492*, broadcast over the ship's loudspeaker.

Somehow it transformed every departure into a *coup de théatre* in which every passenger had a walk-on part. Even now its refrain haunts me, and I remember looking back at the ship for the last time, Captain Charisma still standing at the head of the gangway, his hands pressed together in the Thai farewell.

■ Brian Jackman travelled with Premier Holidays (01787 884031 for brochures; 01223 516677 for reservations).

■ Star Clippers' tall ship *Star Flyer* sails on weekly voyages between Singapore and Phuket from mid-November until the end of March.

Northbound and southbound voyages have different itineraries, so you could take a 14-night cruise without retracing your steps.

■ Premier Holidays offers seven nights on board *Star Flyer* between Singapore and Phuket (or vice versa) from £961 per person, if booked before October 31.

The price is based on two people sharing a cabin and includes full board, but not flights. Including flights and transfers, the week costs from £1,769 per person.

FACT FILE

■ Other options include a 16-night holiday, including 14 nights on the *Star Flyer* and two in the Inter-Continental Hotel in Singapore, from £2,420 per person including flights.

■ From May until September 1998, the *Star Flyer* will be cruising the Greek islands, using Kusadasi in Turkey as her base. Meanwhile her sister-ship, *Star Clipper*, will be sailing in the Caribbean this winter, and in the western Mediterranean out of Cannes next summer.

■ There are also places available on the *Star Clipper*'s final Mediterranean voyage this season, departing next Saturday (September 13) from Cannes. The ten-day itinerary takes in Monte Carlo, Corsica, Minorca, Majorca, Formentera, Ibiza and Marbella, and costs £875 per person, including full board but not flights. For details of all these sailings, contact Fred Olsen Travel (01473 292222).

■ Health: it is advisable to be protected against cholera, tetanus, hepatitis and malaria. Consult your GP.

■ Reading: *Thailand* and *Malaysia & Singapore* (Footprint Handbooks, £12.99 each); Alex Garland's novel *The Beach* (Penguin, £5.99) gives a flavour of Thailand's beaches.

■ Tips: Take binoculars, sunhat, sunblock, insect repellent. Snorkels and masks are provided on board, but it is preferable to bring your own.

The Caribbean is no longer the only port of call; South America, the Far East, the South Pacific and Antarctica add their names to the list of destinations

Where to shrug off the winter blues

Evade the Great British Winter on a cruise this year, and you will find that the world, as Arthur Daley might say, is your lobster.

An influx of new ships during the past decade has left the Caribbean highly competitive and even passé. Winter cruise options have now expanded beyond the Caribbean and Canary Island runs to farther-flung destinations such as the Far East, South America, the South Pacific and even Antarctica.

Nevertheless, sun-seekers also in search of affordable fun and relaxation cannot do much better than the Caribbean. The ratio of fun to relaxation, however, varies from ship to ship.

The "party ships" of Carnival Cruise Line (0171-729 1929) place the emphasis on frolics: pool parties, discothèques, jazzy entertainment and facilities of skyscraper dimensions. They won't break the bank, either. The Airtours brochure on Florida and the Caribbean (01706 232323) features 14-night cruise-and-stay holidays, combining a week all-inclusive in the Dominican Republic with a week aboard Carnival's *Inspiration*, from £1,124 in December including flights.

More sophistication is offered by Carnival's Holland America Line, Norwegian Cruise Line, which has the former liner *SS Norway* as its flagship, Celebrity Cruises (famed for its Roux-designed menus), Royal Caribbean International (stylishly designed big ships), and P&O-owned Princess Cruises, which retains a British ambience despite attracting large numbers of Americans.

Norwegian Cruise Line (0800 181560), which offers Caribbean fly-cruises from £1,745 for nine nights, and Celebrity Cruises (0171-412 0290), whose Caribbean fly-cruises are from £1,571 for nine nights, are the only lines that keep to Caribbean or Panama Canal runs in the winter months.

Princess Cruises (0171-800 2468) offers 15-day "Tropical Combination" Caribbean fly-cruises from San Juan aboard its newest ship, the 1,950-passenger *Dawn Princess*, from £2,195.

It also offers 17-day fly-cruises around Latin America, calling at Chile, the Falkland Islands, Argentina and Uruguay, from £2,745, and cruises around the Far East, Australia and India.

Royal Caribbean (01932 820230) has 16, 17 and 18-day cruises of the Far East this winter, alongside a huge range of Caribbean itineraries. Far East fly-cruise prices start at £2,699 for 16 days in November; Caribbean fly-cruises start at £1,499 for nine days (departing between November 29 and December 14).

All fares quoted are per person, as published in the brochures, based on a minimum-grade outside cabin, since most people prefer a sea view. Port taxes, where charged separately, have been added.

The inside cabins are cheaper, and nowadays few people pay the brochure price for a cruise — check Teletext for late-availability offers or check with the lines for details of discounts.

The Pricebreakers system of Princess Cruises offers discounts to passengers who book early, while Royal Caribbean has a "breakthrough" system which twitches prices according to availability. Other lines have similar schemes.

Both Thomson Holidays (0990 502562) and Airtours (01706 232323) have ships in the Caribbean this winter, and offer good cruises on a budget. Thomson has 14-night cruise-and-stay holidays combining a week in the Dominican Republic with a week on either Norwegian Cruise Line's *Seaward* or its own ship, *Emerald*, from £1,199 and £1,098 respectively.

The cruise-and-stay options of Airtours include a combination based in Barbados from £1,194, with a seven-day cruise on Airtours's *Carousel*.

At the other end of the price scale is the four-mast sailing ship *Wind Song* of Windstar Cruises. The 148-passenger ship, based in Costa Rica from December until April, will be operating seven-day South American cruises with enormous wildlife-spotting potential. It may cost £2,122 per week excluding flights, but this ship is extremely smart. Perks include in-cabin CD players; past passengers include David Bowie. Details on 0171-628 7711.

Silversea Cruises (0171-613 4777) also specialises in millionaires' yacht-style cruising, and this winter it has its six-star rated ships *Silver Cloud* and *Silver Wind* exploring South America, the South Pacific and the Far East.

Prices for an 18-day cruise from Valparaiso, Chile, to Buenos Aires start at £7,095, while a 14-day Singapore to Bali cruise costs from £5,795.

Less cash buys even more panache if you opt for an Antarctica cruise with Orient Lines (0171-409 2500). Its pretty, 915-passenger ship, *Marco Polo*, offers a series of cruises around the White Continent from £3,585 (outside cabin) for a 13-day round-trip fly-cruise from Ushuaia in Argentina.

MARIA HARDING



Where will you drop anchor?

Andy Martin visits Austin, the Texan state capital — a haven for dreamers, music lovers and barflies

Utopia for hot licks and no hicks

Austin may be the state capital of Texas, but the only stetson I saw during my whole week there was on the head of Bill Clinton, who turned up at a re-election rally. I doubted whether this uncool headgear would win him many votes in this style-conscious city.

America is divided into two, a French sociologist once said: on the coasts everyone is thin and drives small cars: and in the middle everyone is fat and drives big cars. New York and Los Angeles are hip; everywhere in between is Hicksville.

On the basis of that old stereotype (which admittedly a lot of Americans themselves share), landlocked Austin is often referred to, by its residents, as the third coast of the United States, so far removed is it from the Hicksville image.

Almost entirely devoid of cattle, oil and cowboys, it has long been rated as one of the live music capitals of the world by the cognoscenti, and Austin's popularity with the film industry is fast making it an alternative Hollywood — the annual Austin Film Festival is held next month.

The primary reason for my visit — I was studying at the American History library on the University of Texas campus — was to do some archival detective work on the attempts of a group of European settlers in the 19th century to create a Texan utopia.

The Europeans had settled on the hills outside the then-new town of Dallas, 200 miles north of Austin, but their utopian dreams (and lack of practical skills — they had more violinists in their group than farmers) proved no match for that town's entrepreneurial zeal.

Perhaps they would have had more luck at turning their dreams into reality had they come to Austin, which is so much more receptive to intellectuals and dreamers.

I led a Jekyll-and-Hyde existence, poring over books and manuscripts by day, and emerging by night on my own quest for utopia, doing my best research in the bars and cafés of the city.

The university campus itself is enormous — you need a bus or a car to get around it. My desk looked out on an immense cement sarcophagus where the Sixties are buried — the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum.

After studying in the library, I would visit the museum for its tour of the decade via a replica of the Oval Office, several floors of red document boxes (visible behind a glass wall), and absolutely no mention of the theory (which I heard a hundred times in Dallas) that LBJ was part of the conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.

But some part of the Sixties lives on in the city, where every bar and restaurant in town boasts a live band or singer. Where should I start with this embarrassment of riches?

"Depends on what you like," Scott, a campus *mariachi* with a guitar looped over his shoulder, told me. "You want plain old country, you go to the Broken Spoke. But you've got blues, jazz, fusion, experimental, Mexican, crossover, psycho-rockabilly . . ."

"OK, but what is 'psycho-rockabilly' anyway?" I asked, baffled by the multiplying genres.

"It's like rockabilly," he replied, "but on drugs."

I caught a bus downtown. "How much to Sixth Street?" I asked the driver. "About $40," he replied, "depending on how much you drink."

Sixth Street is a solid strip of sound, mixed with margaritas. Music bursts out of doorways and pours down off rooftops. But although essential, Sixth Street is almost too popular if you want to be really hip.

So one night I took in the Continental Club on South Congress, a Fifties-style bar (which really dates from the Fifties) with a Sixties-style group, "The Friends of Dean Martinez" rocking on stage. The joint was already jumping at 7pm, and it carried on rocking into the small hours.

Another night I ended up at the Cactus Café where Darden Smith, a tall, stringy local boy, was crooning his bittersweet "folk rock" (not "psycho", I think).

Not only was he nothing like a cowboy country and western singer, he even had a song about being a vegetarian who hates barbecues. I liked the guy so much I put him in my pocket and took him home with me in the shape of one of his *Trouble No More* cassettes.

The Cactus Café is on colourful Guadeloupe Street, where campus spills over into town. The imposing Church of Scientology was offering a free stress test on the other side of the street.

"Do you suffer from stress very much?" said the smiling evangelist as he hooked me up to something like a lie detector.

"I hoped you were going to tell me that," I said.

"OK," he said, "what kinds of things stress you?"

"Stress tests apparently," I said, my stress-response meter going through the roof. He assured me that a copy of *Dianetics* by L. Ron Hubbard would solve all my problems, but I sought more immediate treatment in Dr Quackenbush's Intergalactic Café, just down the road, where they make the best coffee in town and even have a roomy "loafing lounge".

Here a girl with black lipstick maintained that I was an American actor, and was only faking my English accent. Nothing I could say would persuade her otherwise.

But this was not too surprising in a city so popular with the film fraternity. Austin may once have been associated with the Seventies horror film *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, which was filmed here, but the cult 1991 film *Slacker*, shot around the University of Texas campus, is rather more in keeping with the city's contemporary ethos, chronicling the aimless lives of a disparate group of Austin students, musicians, café philosophers, wandering minstrels such as Scott, and the dispossessed underemployed.

Today, Quentin Tarantino organises his own impromptu film festival whenever he passes through, showing horror and gangster films till dawn, and there was even a rumour that Steven Spielberg was planning to move in.

"God, I just hope Woody Allen doesn't come here too," said Julia Null Smith from the Texas Film Commission. "he'll never leave!" I could see her point.

This is an intellectual's city, where I kept running into brain-drained English academics. According to the American Booksellers' Association, Austin's citizens buy more books than any others in America, at its 70 bookstores.

In contrast with Dallas, Austin does not have a brash glass skyline, nor does it want one. Strict planning controls keep it that way. Dallas was the city *par excellence* of the Eighties. Austin is much more Nineties: understated, mostly brick and wood. It doesn't try to sell itself and doesn't need to.

When I flew out from Dallas, that city came as something of a culture shock after Austin, but it also restored my faith in stereotypes.

Joe drove me from the airport in his "Cowboy Cab" car, recommending a hot club with a wet T-shirt and shortest shorts show on the way. When I told him I was going to Paris soon, he said he would sure like to see the Leaning Tower of Pizza one day.

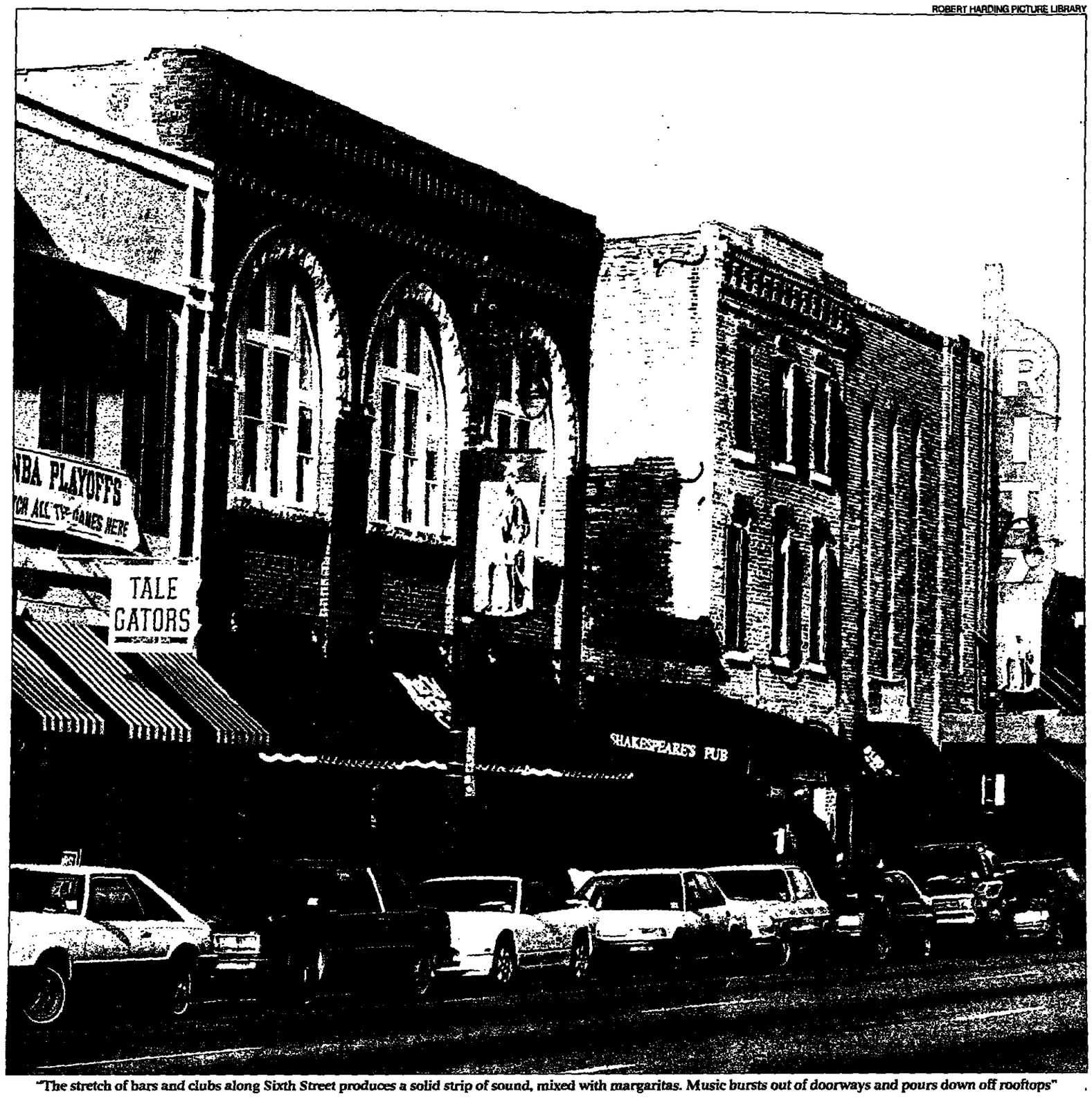
As the conversation continued, the dialogue grew more surreal, as driver Joe told me: "Go too fast here and the police'll take you straight to jail — less you can talk 'em out of it real fast."

"You mean something like 'my wife's going to have a baby?' "

"Well, congratulations! Do you wanna boy or a girl?"

"Joe, that was just a hypothesis."

"A hypothesis? You just want to keep it a surprise, don't you now?"

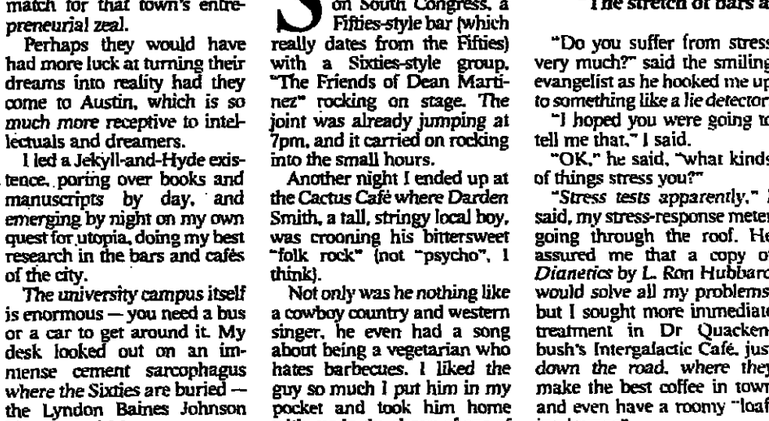


ROBERT HARDING PICTURE LIBRARY

"The stretch of bars and clubs along Sixth Street produces a solid strip of sound, mixed with margaritas. Music bursts out of doorways and pours down off rooftops"

AUSTIN FACT FILE

TONY STONE



Stellar attraction: exploring a symbol of the Lone Star State in its capital city

■ Getting there: British Airways (0345 222111) flies from Heathrow via Chicago, or from Gatwick via Dallas, with return fares from £630 in September, £537 in October and £464 from November 12, excluding tax. Continental Airlines (0800 776464) flies to Austin from Gatwick via Houston, and United Airlines (0181-990 9900) flies from Heathrow via Chicago, at similar prices.

■ Where to stay: Holiday Inn, Austin Town Lake (001 512 472 8211, fax 001 512 472 4636): single and double rooms from £63 ($100) to £95 ($150) a night, excluding breakfast. Radisson Hotel, 111 E First Street, near Sixth Street (001 512 478 9611, fax 001 516 473 8399): singles and doubles from £63 ($100) to £83 ($130) a night excluding breakfast. Rodeway Inn (at the university) (001 512 477 6395, fax 001 512 477 1830): double room with continental breakfast, £33 ($50), Sunday to Thursday, £40 ($62) Friday and Saturday.

■ Austin sounds: Depending on your taste in music, virtually every bar and café on Sixth Street will offer something to please. Also: Cactus Café at Guadeloupe and 24th Street; Continental Club, 1315 South Congress Avenue: Elephant Room, 315 Congress. For traditional country and western: The Broken Spoke, 3201 South Lamar Boulevard.

■ Film festival: Big names at the Austin Film Festival, from October 2-9, include Oliver Stone and Dennis Hopper. Details on 001 512 478 4795.

Red tape: British citizens do not need a visa to visit America as tourists.

For further information on Austin, and the State of Texas, call 0171-978 5233 or fax 0171-924 3134.



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The fall of communism has added many new destinations to the tourist map, say **Cath Urquhart** and **Joanna Hunter**

DYLAN MARTINEZ



The hammer and sickle used to be a sign that tourists were not welcome, but not any more

No borders for tourists

The Cuba Libre might be a blend of rum, cola and ice but today the name sounds more like a metaphor for change. Cuba might not be entirely *libre*, but its attitude towards the tourist dollar has certainly loosened up, as the dozens of charter flights heading into Havana now testify.

Cuba is not alone. Around the world, once-strict socialist, communist, and even totalitarian states are now opening to visitors. Here's our guide to the only political party that spans the globe: the Holiday Party.

ARMENIA

Travellers rarely ventured into the smallest Soviet republic but since the collapse of the USSR, tourism has slowly taken off, with determined visitors attracted to its churches and mountain scenery.

Sunvil (0181-568 4499) has places on a ten-night tour of the country, departing September 13, and visiting Etchmiadzin, Sardarabad, Lake Sevan, Garni and Geghart. The trip costs £964 including flights via Amsterdam, accommodation in a three-star hotel in the capital, Yerevan, and excursions.

BERLIN

Since the wall came down, the city has become one of Europe's trendiest, and it will take an even more important role after it becomes the German capital in 1999.

City break specialist Time Off (0990 846363) offers deals such as a two-night break, flying to Berlin with British Airways from Heathrow or Gatwick, for £310, including B&B at a three-star hotel, transfers and taxes. Price valid until the end of October.

MONGOLIA

Free market reforms are slowly taking hold and red tape is being cut back, making visits much easier.

Steppes East (01285 810267) offers trips including the Riding With Eagles tour. Sightseeing in the capital, Ulan Bator, is combined with several days' horseback riding in the west of the country, where you meet Kazak eagle hunters. The two-week trip costs from £2,270 including accommodation (in gers, Mongolian tents, when in the countryside), all meals, flights and transfers, and is available between June and October 1998.

NORTH KOREA

It is all but closed to the West but those determined to see North Korea can call Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711), which offers a ten-night trip to China and North Korea, including flights to Beijing, two nights in the Chinese capital, train ticket to North Korea's capital Pyongyang, accommodation, all meals and tours there, and costs £1,905 departing on October 9, and £1,820 departing on November 13.

VIETNAM

The communists are still in power, but thanks to *doi moi* — Vietnam's version of perestroika — they now welcome tourists with open arms.

Asia World Travel (01483 730808) offers tailor-made itineraries travelling between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, as Saigon is now known: an eight-night visit, including flights to Vietnam and two internal flights, a private driver and guide, accommodation and all meals costs £1,620.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Tourists are returning to Croatia's beaches, and this winter the first British holidaymakers will again be able to ski in Serbia.

A week's skiing at Kopaonik with Thomson, with half board at the Hotel Grand, leaving Gatwick on December 27, costs £495 excluding ski pass and hire of ski equipment. For ski holiday bookings, call 0990 329329 (group bookings 0990 502300).

ZANZIBAR

The island is now a mellow haven but it was formerly known as the Cuba of Africa.

Somak (0181-423 3000) offers various holidays on Zanzibar, flying with Kenya Airways via Nairobi or Mombasa. Five nights' B&B, flights and transfers, cost £835-£904, depending on accommodation chosen, departing between December 15 and January 3.

■ *All prices quoted are per person, based on two sharing a room.*

COLORIFIC

Cuba, where one man is an island



The wild, romantic and iconic Che Guevara was executed 30 years ago next month, yet his face still adorns T-shirts, beermats and postcards

Castro rules, but Che Guevara is the face you see everywhere. By **Jo Foley**

PICTURES



Fifties American cars can be hired — but hire a driver too

There is hardly a surface in Havana — or, for that matter, throughout Cuba — that has not at some time or another been decorated, stamped or adorned with the face of one man. Whether it's a T-shirt, a beermat or a municipal monument, the face that launched a million postcards, the face of Che Guevara, looks out at you.

It is one of the great faces of the 20th century — wild, romantic, iconic. The revolutionary spirit personified. How appropriate then, that almost 30 years after his execution in Bolivia, Che's remains were unearthed earlier this summer and returned for a hero's burial in Cuba. The anniversary of his death falls on October 9, and there are plans to move his remains to a mausoleum next month. For if Che's former colleague and comrade-in-arms, Fidel Castro, is the president and the head of this, the Caribbean's largest island, Che is the face of Cuba.

Indeed, it is one of the first sights you see, as you drive from Havana's international airport into the city. In the Plaza de la Revolucion, one of those vast squares built simply for showing off weapons, armies or manoeuvres, it is not the size of it that grabs your attention, nor the huge phallic monument at its centre, but to one side, on the wall of the eight-storey Ministry of Internal Affairs, a wrought iron image of that face, the full height of the building.

And for a country still feeling its way towards tourism and a tentative embrace of capitalist principles, the romance of Che is exactly what Cuba needs. For if you couple the romantic yearnings of the late 20th century with the desire to find a relatively unspoilt island and a people who know how to have fun, you have a winning formula.

The infrastructure is getting better, mostly because of the huge investments pouring in from Canada and Central America. Vast new hotels are being built on the coast at Varadero, about 90 miles to the east of Havana — many built on all-inclusive lines, so visitors need not pay extra for food, drinks or watersports. But, despite the building work, the beach at Varadero, 11 miles of soft, white, powdery sand and calm sea, is big enough not to feel crowded.

Most visitors divide their time between Varadero — once the holiday home of Al Capone — and Havana. Indeed, links with the mob and the more muscular side of American gangsterism are all around. The capital's most famous hotel, the Nacional, was built by the mob in the Thirties and was visited by everyone of note, from royals to rogues to roués. Photographs of former guests decorate one side of the bar — the Duke of Windsor rubs shoulders with Johnny Weismuller, American mobster Meyer Lanski squares up to John Wayne, while Frank Sinatra dances with Ava Gardner and George Raft, the actor with Mafia connections, trips along with Betty Grable.

Although it has been recently much restored, the hotel still has a slightly raffish air, with its furniture and fittings not quite up to the standards of international luxury. The surrounding streets have an equally shambolic feel, bedecked with the city's few cars, most of them magnificent American models of the 1950s: huge gleaming Buicks, sharp-looking Dodges, the odd Lincoln and the occasional stretched Chevvy.

The Cubans are nothing if not resourceful, and when America imposed its trade embargo in 1959 — still in place — they could neither get body nor engine parts for the autos, so they improvised. Clapped-out bodies were welded together for the stretched limo look, while most of the engines have been imported from China. Petrol is expensive, further reducing the traffic. But position one of these pale turquoise machines with gleaming chrome tail-fins in a street full of 18th-century Spanish villas and you have a holiday snap you will never get anywhere else. Many cars are for hire, but it is best to hire the driver too, for outside the city signposts are few and far between.

Che's car is here, too, in the city's Automobile Museum in Old Havana — having narrowly survived being driven by Jeremy Clarkson on his *Motorworld* programme on BBC2 last Monday. It's a '59 Chevrolet, green with a cream roof — some cool dude.

Old Havana, with its narrow streets, beautiful houses, museums, galleries and churches is a Unesco-designated World Heritage Site and is under constant renovation, much of it funded from Canada, Mexico and Spain. Head for Cathedral Square, which has a lively market where among the kitsch pottery busts of Fidel and Che, the keyrings and the T-shirts, you can find work by good local artists.

And you will need to stop for refreshment. What Che Guevara did for the poster industry, Ernest Hemingway did for alcohol sales. Two of the great 20th-century drinks emanate from old Havana via Papa H: the mojito — a concoction of light rum, lime, mint, ice and soda in a long glass — which he took in the mornings, and the daiquiri which he savoured for the rest of the day. To drink the former, he frequented the Bodeguita, a café-bar in Old Havana, with such cronies as Errol Flynn and occasionally Fidel. For the daiquiri, a mix of rum, lime and crushed ice, he favoured the Floridita, the bar he described in *Islands in the Stream*. So delighted were the proprietors by his imbibings that a section of the bar is adorned with his pictures.

Food, on the other hand, is still quite limited. But in a country where the residents are still on rations it is not surprising. Menus are limited to fish, pork and chicken, served with rice and salad. In a flirtation with a free market economy, there are a number of private restaurants, known as paladares, licensed by the government. Each licence allows them to feed up to 12 people. They are difficult to find, but ask the bellboy at your hotel or a taxi driver and you could end up, as I did, in their aunty's garden being served home-cooked food rather than mass-produced buffet fare, plus wine or beer for about $12 (£7.50) a head.

For in one of those quirks of logic, US dollars are acceptable currency for almost everything, but any credit card or cheque issued by an American bank is not. Make sure, though, that you have plenty of dollars or any other credit card when you visit one of the city's cigar factories. For you can buy Cohibas or Montecristos at prices which would make strong men weep: a box of 10 Montecristos, for example, cost $40 (about £25) in Havana, while each cigar costs around £10 in Britain.

Then there is the music. Wherever you go, you hear salsa, cha-cha, son — local folk music — and rumba, a marriage of African drums and Spanish melodies. Every town and village has a café-bar where musicians play and people dance. Cubans dance everywhere — visit the Palacio de la Salsa for late night fun or watch the professionals in eye-wateringly tight sequinned costumes at the Tropicana nightclub on the outskirts of Havana. Buy a tape of the music to take home, some rum — and, of course, a Che T-shirt.

CUBA FACT FILE

■ **Jo Foley travelled to Cuba with Kuoni (01306 742222), which offers deals including a six-night escorted Discover Cuba tour, visiting Havana, Faro de Luna, Trinidad, Scanti Spiritus, Rancho Hatuey and La Granjita, from £609 per person between September 20 and October 31. Departures are from Gatwick on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.**

■ **The Discover Cuba tour, followed by seven nights on the beach at Varadero, costs from £925 per person between those dates. Between November 1 and December 14, the Discover Cuba tour starts at £999, and with the extra week, prices start at £899. Prices are based on two people sharing a room and include meals while on tour, and half board on the beach.**

■ **A six-night two-centre holiday, with three nights in Havana and three nights in Varadero, costs from £553 per person from September 20 to October 31, including accommodation, flights from Gatwick, transfers and breakfast.**

■ **When to go: Cuba's relatively even climate — temperatures are in the mid-20s for most of the year — means that there is no bad time to visit, although humidity is higher in summer. December to April are the most popular months, with European visitors seeking winter sun, and resorts can get very crowded around Christmas and Easter.**



■ **Health: Innoculation against hepatitis A, typhoid, polio and tetanus is recommended, but consult your GP.**

■ **Red tape: A tourist card (costing £15) is necessary for British passport holders and can be issued by tour operators or through the Cuban Consulate in London (for details phone 0891 880820; calls will be charged at 50p per minute).**

■ **Money: You will be able to carry out every transaction in US dollars or Cuban convertible pesos, which have the same value as dollars. Do not be tempted to use the local currency, the nonconvertible peso or moneda nacional. Most credit cards are accepted in hotels and shops, but not those issued by American banks.**

■ **Books: *Cuba* (Lonely Planet, £11.99); *The Travellers' Survival Kit Cuba* (Vacation Work Publications, £9.99); *Islands in the Stream* by Ernest Hemingway (Flamingo, £6.99); *The Old Man and The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, which is based in and around the small fishing town of Cojimar (Arrow, £3.99); *Cuba and the Night* by Pico Iyer (Quartet, £6).**

■ **Further information: Send a large stamped, addressed envelope to The Cuban Tourist Board, 167 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PA (0171-240 6655).**

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RICHARD ALLEN



Poetry in every bay and tor

Peter Orr enjoys the timeless air of north Cornwall, where John Betjeman spent childhood holidays and found inspiration for much of his work

Think of John Betjeman and, almost inevitably, images of Metroland spring to mind: visions of leafy lanes in Pinner, Odeons flashing fire and all the other items from that genuinely nostalgic scrapbook.

But Betjeman's affections were not entirely given over to metropolitan suburbia: from childhood, our former Poet Laureate recollects a breathless sense of expectation and excitement that comes with the approach of summer holidays. For the young John, landlocked in London or Oxford during most of the year, that meant off to the seaside, where mighty Atlantic breakers spend their force on the rocks and sands of the north Cornish coast.

The heart of Betjeman's Cornwall, with which he enjoyed such an enduringly happy association, lies between Tintagel and the estuary of the River Camel. Summoned by bells of distant memory, the old, familiar route is retraced for today's reader in a piece he wrote in 1950: from the A39 at Collan's Cross, the B3314 runs through Delabole, with its slate quarry; then Pendoggett, followed by tantalising glimpses of the Atlantic and Port Isaac Bay, on past Resungers to the hilltop church of St Endellion whose bells, Betjeman recalls, "sounded louder even than the car".

All of that scene survives to this day largely untouched by the years, not changed utterly from the time of Betjeman's youth, still mysterious, haunted by the roll call of Celtic saints, legends of King Arthur and the knights of his Round Table, and ancient tales, like that of how "St Petroc sailed in a silver bowl from Cornwall to an isle in the Indian Ocean". Here is a strange land of undeniable charm and character, yet somehow foreign; England yet not entirely English.

This part of north Cornwall, Betjeman's patch, is a fine place for rambles on foot. One of the most delightful, short, scenic walks I know takes the coastal path around Rumps Point and Pentire Point, starting from near Pentireglaze, or from New Polzeath (pronounced to rhyme with "breath").

The seaward views are breathtaking, the going, though steep in parts, easy enough in dry weather, with very many seabirds, including fulmars, to see along the way and, as Betjeman noted, "tufts of sea-pink, high and dry for years . . .".

Inland, a sign for Rough Tor at the north end of Camelford directs the motorist down an uneven road to a convenient car park, from where there opens up a view of Cornwall's highest point. At first sighting, on a clear, bright day of spring, the group of hills can appear as a formidable challenge, like a distant range of towering peaks. After a few minutes' walking, however, they are seen for what they are, a close cluster of small hills, offering an easy scramble to the summit of Rough Tor (pronounced Row-ter by the locals), where a plaque remembers the dead of the 43rd Wessex Regiment; then on to Brown Willy, its name taken from the Old Cornish tongue, Bron Ewhela, or highest place.

North Cornwall offers abundant opportunities for all kinds of sporting activities. Surfing, so my wet-suited friends tell me, is excellent at Polzeath. With a less energetic friend, I have played fairly strenuous singles of tennis at Daymar Bay, but no Miss Joan Hunter Dunn was there to cheer us on.

Betjeman enjoyed his seaside golf, with "lark song and sea sounds in the air", and recalls in a poem the extraordinary occasion on which he made a "quite unprecedented three" at one hole. He might well have been playing on the sandy undulations of St Enodoc, where today's golfers can have a game across those same dunes that provide much of the interest and variety of the two 18-hole courses there.

In the churchyard of St Enodoc, the visitor can see Betjeman's grave, the lettering on its headstone suitably embellished with flamboyant curlicues. Here, where he had known so many happy days, especially as a child, John Betjeman was laid to rest.

Blessed be St Enodoc, blessed be the wave,
Blessed be the springy turf, we pray, we pray to thee.
Ask for our children all the happy days you gave
To Ralph, Vasey, Alastair, Biddy, John and me.

While the poet's mortal remains lie at St Enodoc, his spirit must surely still hover in another place, just a few miles away. "Saint Endellion!" as Betjeman wrote, "the name is like a ring of bells", and there is certainly something very remarkable and precious about this remote little piece of north Cornwall, a place to be treasured.

St Endelienta, as the story goes, gave instructions as she was dying that her body should be drawn by young bullocks, and that where they stopped she should be interred. And thus it was: Endelienta's shrine is in the hilltop church of St Endellion, whose tower remains visible from miles away.

Twice a year, at Easter and in summer, St Endellion is host to professional and amateur musicians who come together for music-making of a very high standard, under the baton of Richard Hickox. Many times have my wife and I taken part in this, the most endearing of small festivals, she in the alto line of the choir, I as reader of verses, Betjeman's among them. Flattering myself, I like to think that he might have nodded approval of my efforts.

During those festival weeks, we used to rent a little flat at Pendoggett, eat lunch at St Kew, following morning rehearsals, make new friends and greet old ones, take the little ferry across the Camel to Padstow, buy fresh fish at the harbour in Port Isaac and, after the evening performances in St Endellion Church, which were followed by a candlelit service of compline, we would adjourn for good ale and conversation to the Cornish Arms at Pendoggett. *O memoria praeteritorum bonorum*: yes, we have known great days in John Betjeman's Cornwall.

A small tablet in the chancel of St Endellion records the fact that Betjeman was a frequent worshipper there. He left a searching question for those who have come to know and love this beautiful church: "Why does St Endellion seem to go on praying when there is no one in it?"

Yes, there is mystery in and around that hallowed place, and Betjeman, himself a devout believer, found the right words for it: ". . . up there on the hill in St Endellion church, eternal man comes week by week in the Eucharist. That is the supreme mystery of all the mysteries of St Endellion."



Betjeman: recalled his happy summer holidays

CORNWALL FACT FILE

- **A place to stay:** Long Cross Hotel, Trelights, near St Endellion (01208 880243), £40-£50; Cornish Arms, Pendoggett (01208 880263), £49; Cornish Cottage Hotel, (entry in *The Good Food Guide 1997*), New Polzeath (01208 862213), £96; Port Gaverne Hotel, near Port Isaac (01208 880244), £96-£100. All prices are for a twin/double, including breakfast. Some offer inclusive prices with dinner and reduced rates for longer stays.
- **Self-catering:** Details available from tourist information offices at Camelford (01840 212954) and Polzeath (01208 862488). John Bray & Partners (01208 863206) has 160 properties to rent until the end of October; Cornish Farm Holidays (01726 861200) has 88 cottages and B&B rooms most year-round.
- **Golf at St Enodoc:** Church course £30 weekdays, £40 weekends; Holywell course £15 all week (01208 863216).
- **Maps:** Ordnance Survey Landranger Map, Sheet 200.
- **Festivals:** the 1998 Easter Festival at St Endellion will run from April 5-12, and the Summer Festival from July 28 to August 7. Details available from mid-February and mid-June respectively (01208 850463).
- **Reading:** The *Best of Betjeman*, selected by John Guest (Penguin, £6.99) contains poems and pieces on Cornwall; *Betjeman's Cornwall*, by John Betjeman (John Murray, £7.99).

Cornwall: The gentleman vicar who rescued sailors and 'invented' the modern harvest festival

All safely gathered in by an eccentric cleric

NIGEL BENNETTS



Crop circle: a combine harvester at work in the fields signals the end of a season

A combine harvester thrashed purposefully across the clifftop field. In Cornish hedges of granite and blackthorn, the honeysuckle was on its second flowering. The same breezes that had fanned the summer strollers now bore the hint of storms to come. This time of year is celebrated all over the world. But in the tiny, sea-blown village of Morwenstow, on Cornwall's Atlantic coast, the traditional thanks for a good harvest is all the more heartfelt.

In September 1843, the Rev Robert Stephen Hawker called on Morwenstow people to "... gather together in the chancel of our church on the first Sunday of next month and there receive, in the bread of our new corn, that blessed sacrament". The Norman parish church of St Morwenna and St John was where Hawker held sway for 41 years. A theologian, poet, wit, eccentric and smoker of opium, he is said to have invented the modern British harvest festival.

Each year, on Morwenstow's harvest festival day, still the first Sunday of every October, Tim Dingle of North Cornwall Heritage and Countryside Service celebrates Hawker's legacy with a guided walk around the places that inspired this favourite son of the West Country.

"He would stroll out in his sea boots and his fisherman's jersey that had a cross as part of its design," Dingle says.

The harvest had been celebrated in Britain and Europe since pre-Christian times. Country people believed that the "Spirit of the Harvest" dwelt in the fields as the earth mother, Ceres.

"But Hawker, as always, was looking for ways to get more people to come to church and to praise God," says Tim Dingle.

Born in Plymouth in 1803, Hawker came to Morwenstow in 1834. He immediately replaced the dilapidated vicarage with one of his own choosing.

The splendid Gothic building, now privately owned, has commanding views of the valley formed by the opposing heights of Vicarage and Henna cliffs. Each of the five chimneys was modelled on other churches that Hawker had known.

Inside St Morwenna's, one of the stained-glass windows is dedicated to Hawker's memory. His first wife, Charlotte Eliza, 19 years his senior, lies extravagantly interred beside the chancel. Hawker married her when he was a student of 22.

In the rambling churchyard, a ship's figurehead, placed there by Hawker, testifies to more tragic episodes. Between 1824 and 1874, the treacherous stretch of coast saw more than 80 ships come to grief. After every wreck, Hawker and his staff would scour the jagged shoreline in search of human remains. The graveyard figurehead is of the Caledonia, a 200-ton Scottish sailing ship that was smashed on the rocks in a gale, with all hands killed save one, in 1842. Hawker had every corpse recovered and interred, the site marked by a granite cross. By 1870 some 40 seamen had been buried under Hawker's care.

From Hawker's clifftop hideaway, the Atlantic sparkled in early evening sunshine. The southern tip of the island of Lundy, 20 miles away, was silhouetted through the haze. In winter, winds of up to 90mph blow here. Above us, there was the faint drone of the combine harvester as it continued the gathering-in.

BRIAN PEDLEY

- *Tim Dingle leads Morwenstow's two-and-a-half mile walk at 11am on Sunday, October 5 from outside the church.*
- *To reach Morwenstow, drive north from Bude on the A39. The village is signposted left about three miles on from Kilkhampton. OS Landranger 190 covers the area.*

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AMERICA: All-in deals are replacing complicated and costly car hire policies, writes **Tom Chesshyre**

Wave goodbye to insurance woes

ROBERT HARDING



Freewheeling: the move towards offering all-inclusive motor insurance should ease the nightmare of hiring a car in America, where unseen extras and fear of lawsuits spoil many a holiday before it starts

"Now sir, there is the option of SLI cover to go with your LDW — we recommend it. And there's also PAI for your personal belongings. With state tax, airport fees and a full tank of petrol, it comes to . . ."

A large figure in dollars is quoted. You are jet-lagged after a nine-hour flight to Miami.. You want to get on with your holiday but have not got the first clue what the rental car assistant is talking about and are shocked by the price. "What if I don't get the SLI?" you suggest timidly, in a bid to chisel at the cost.

"Well," the assistant replies, "You could be sued for a *lot* of money in the case of an accident."

You inquire how much. At mention of the word "million", out comes the plastic.

Hiring a car in America has traditionally been something of a nightmare. The endless insurance acronyms, the unexpected additional expenses and the fear of expensive lawsuits have reduced many travellers to tears. It can be an extremely unpleasant way to start a holiday.

However, all this could be about to change. This year, for the first time, many car hire companies have started to promote all-inclusive American package deals. Rather than highlighting low "lead-in" prices covering only the basic cost of renting the car, most companies have begun to flag prices that include all the messy bits: insurance, state taxes (which vary from state to state), airport fees, "handling" fees, unlimited mileage provisions. Many deals also cover the cost of allowing an additional driver; some even throw in a tank of petrol.

Jan Armstrong, executive vice-president of the American Car Rental Association which represents American car hire firms, says: "As an industry, we have had to face up to the fact that there has been a lot of confusion over prices in the past. That is why we've recommended that car hire companies highlight the benefits of fully inclusive packages."

Even so, many tour operators and travel agents often advertise rock bottom "lead-in" prices to attract the attention of customers. All-inclusive deals may also be on offer, but you will have to ask specifically for them.

Companies advertising on Teletext tend to be particularly culpable: I called a random sample that were offering bare minimum car rates and not one mentioned the need to take out more comprehensive insurance.

Park & Co, a car hire broker, says: "It is becoming more and more rare to see, for example, a week's car hire in Florida advertised for £49. Too many people have had their fingers burnt too many times. They've come home to horrific credit card bills and don't want to go through all that again."

Car hire companies claim that their switch to all-inclusive deals has been accompanied by a new softly-softly approach among check-in assistants. Hertz says: "It's pointless to upset customers because, if you do, they're unlikely to come back. Our emphasis is on a relaxed, friendly approach."

Budget says: "Many customers may have felt as though they were being 'put upon' in the past, but it was our legal requirement to have to explain the various insurance terms. Our staff have had extra training over the past year to improve customer service and — if more people take all-inclusive deals — there should be less of the nastiness that there may have been in the past."

Evelyn and Peter Marcus, a retired couple from Putney, southwest London, will take a lot more convincing before they go on another fly-drive in America. "We have never been spoken to so rudely in all our lives," says Mrs Marcus. "The woman behind the counter was deliberately blunt and spat out the various insurance options as though we were the most stupid people in the world. She also tried to make us upgrade our car, even though we knew the one we had was large enough. It was terrifying and we were left shaking with anger. I don't want to risk going through that again."

Perhaps the advent of all-inclusive deals will make such horror stories less likely in the future. But, for the moment, the jury is still out.

How to get the best deals when hiring in the USA

ALL-INCLUSIVE DEALS SHOULD COVER:

Loss Damage Waiver (LDW): Also known as Collision Damage Waiver (CDW). Covers any accidental collision damage and usually also provides protection from vandalism, theft or "acts of nature" (ie, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes — should you be so unlucky). It is extremely basic and does not cover damage to other cars or property. It is often quoted in tempting lead-in prices as though it is all you need in terms of accident cover, but is not enough on its own. Usually costs £7.60-£10.80 ($12-$17) a day.

Supplementary Liability Insurance (SLI): Also known as Supplementary Liability Protection (SLP), Liability Insurance Supplement (LIS), Additional Liability Insurance (ALI) or Extended Protection (EP). Crucial protection against third-party claims. Most policies cover up to £637,000 ($1 million) — considered necessary in a country where lawyers are ready to go to town on "mental trauma" and "whiplash" after the smallest of bumps. Without SLI, the only third-party protection you have comes from the car rental company. The amount of this cover varies from state to state. In Florida it is a maximum of £6,369 ($10,000) for each person injured — up to a maximum of £12,738 ($20,000) an incident — and £6,369 ($10,000) in property damage: not enough in a serious accident. SLI usually costs £5.09-£6.36 ($8-$10) a day.

State taxes: These vary from state to state. Usually the rate is 3 to 18 per cent; 3.75 per cent in Texas, 18 per cent in Washington. It is 6.5 per cent in Florida — the most popular British fly-drive destination — where there is also a £1.30 ($2.05) a day environmental surcharge. Occasionally states have a flat rate; for example, £19.10 ($30) in Massachusetts.

Airport fees: Like state taxes, airport fees can vary enormously. They are also expressed differently by different hire companies; for example, Hertz's airport rate in Miami is 9 per cent of the whole sale, while Dollar's is £1.59 ($2.50) a day.

Handling fees: Some, but not all, companies choose to charge handling fees — these cover the cost of running shuttle buses to and from the airport. Dollar's rate in Miami is £1.59-£2.22 ($2.50-$3.50) a day.

Unlimited mileage: Always make sure that unlimited mileage is included; miles can easily clock up and charges for going over limits can be expensive.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGES SOMETIMES INCLUDE

Tank of petrol: Filling a tank up costs £9.55-£15.92 ($15-$25) with most hire cars, so a "free" tank can help sway the decision to choose one company rather than another when packages are closely priced. If it is not included in a package, check-in staff should ask if you want to pay for a tank of the hire company's petrol (allowing you to return the car with an empty tank for no extra charge) or for you to return the car with a full tank. If you do buy upfront, remember not to return with a full tank.

Additional driver: It usually costs £1.91-£3.18 ($3-$5) a day for an additional driver; Budget's Miami rate is £2.54 ($4), and Thrifty's Orlando rate is £3.18 ($5). Some companies include "free" drivers for certain cities (more common in California than the east coast), so it is worth asking about this.

USUALLY NOT INCLUDED

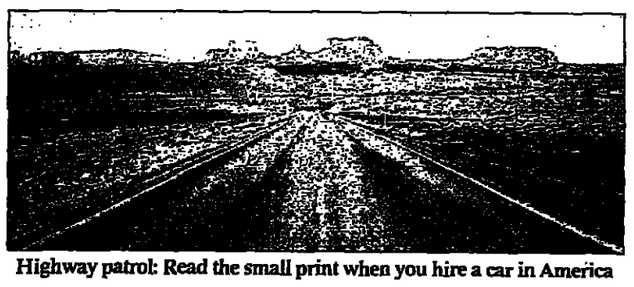
Drop-off fees: If you are taking a car from one depot and dropping it off at another, there is usually quite a hefty fee. Hertz's fees are £31.84 ($50) for a drop-off less than 250 miles away; £63.69 ($100) for a drop-off 251-500 miles away; and £318.47 ($500) for a drop-off more than 501 miles away. However, there are a few popular one-way routes which do not always have extra charges; for example, Las Vegas to San Francisco; New York to Washington DC; and Miami to Orlando. Usually, whether there is a fee or not depends entirely on whether the company has a car that needs to be returned to your destination.

Upgrades: It is always worth asking for a free upgrade — you have nothing to lose. Cars range in size from "economy" (not very comfortable on long trips and really a bit too small for a family with two children), to "compact" (reasonably powerful, room for two kids in the back, good luggage space in the boot), to "intermediate" (roughly the same size but more powerful than a "compact", and usually only a few dollars more each day), to "full-size" (room for a family with three children, lots of boot room), to "luxury". Sometimes the terminology is different. When booking, do make sure you inquire about car size.

Personal Accident Insurance (PAI): Also known as Personal Effects Cover (PEC). Cover for medical assistance and personal possessions. This is normally not needed if you have taken out travel insurance.

Under-25 surcharges: The minimum car-hire age is normally 21 and there are expensive daily charges for rental drivers aged 21-25. Dollar charges £12.73 ($20) a day in Miami for those aged 21-25, and Thrifty charges £9.55 ($15). The only state where Hertz allows under-25 drivers is New York, where there is a £31.21 ($49) a day charge for drivers aged 18-25.

Child seats: Usually cost about £2.54 ($4) a day; worth taking your own (airlines treat them as luggage).



Highway patrol: Read the small print when you hire a car in America

MAKING BOOKINGS

IT IS often cheaper to book through a broker, many of whom say they will beat offers by rival firms.

CAR-HIRE COMPANIES

Alamo 0990 994000
Avis 0990 900500
Budget 0800 181181
Dollar 0800 252897
Hertz 0990 906090
Thrifty 0990 168238

BROKERS

Holiday Autos 0990 300400
Park & Go 0181-977 7444
Pelican 01625 586666
Premier 01279 641040
Suncars 0990 005566
Transhire 0171-978-1922

HOW MUCH DOES A PACKAGE COST?

Each all-inclusive deal quoted covers: SLI, LDW, state taxes, airport fees, handling fees and unlimited mileage. The prices are for a four-door "compact" car for one week in September.

Car hire company or broker	Miami	San Francisco	New York (JFK airport)	Extras
Alamo	£195	£195	-	Free additional driver & fuel
Avis	£183	£183	£243	Free additional driver in San Francisco
Budget	£179	£179	-	Free additional driver in San Francisco
Dollar	£184	£184	£244	Free additional driver in San Francisco
Hertz	£180	£190	£249	Free additional driver
Premier — broker	£175	£175	£219	Free additional driver & fuel in Miami and San Francisco
Thrifty	£187	£187	-	Free additional driver

(Prices can fluctuate and are subject to availability)

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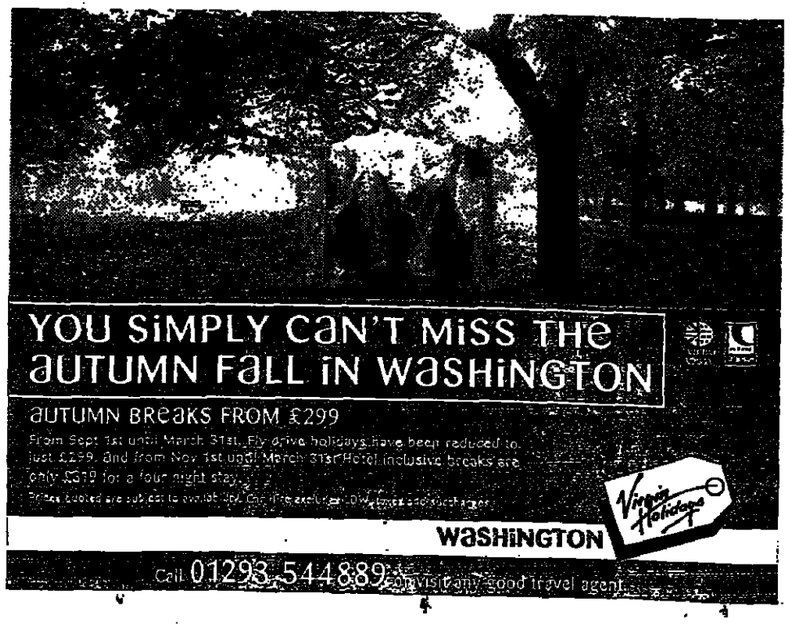
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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Those steamy southern states

MANY British holidaymakers are likely to be heading beyond Florida and California next year to the beguiling and quaintly historic *Gone with the Wind* southern states. They will discover a treasure trove of huge sandy beaches, offshore islands, stunning mountain scenery, old plantation houses and manicured golf courses — plus two of America's most enchanting small cities.

These are Charleston, in South Carolina, with its 1,500-odd 18th and 19th-century buildings, which was saved by poverty and neglect (it was not worth pulling them down to build modern high-rises); and Savannah, over the border in neighbouring Georgia, where tourism has been boosted by the bestseller *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (Vintage, £6.99), John Berendt's steamy non-fiction account of sex and spells, intrigue and eccentricity under lush magnolias. The number of visitors to the area increased by almost 50 per cent within a year of the book's publication in 1994.

New England Country Homes (01798 869096) is to expand into North and South Carolina in 1998 with flights to Charlotte, in North Carolina, and prices similar to those in the firm's New England programme, where travel, car hire, hotel stopovers, insurance and two weeks' rental of a self-catering cottage or studio costs from £695 per person (based on four sharing a cottage).

Golf specialist Longshot (01730 230370) has introduced packages to South Carolina, birthplace of American golf in the 18th century. The 50-mile stretch of saltmarsh coast at Myrtle Beach has more than 90 courses. A week's holiday, staying at the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort (room only), including flights and car hire, costs from £525, rising to £829 at peak season over Christmas. Special rates to play three courses cost between £30-£105 per person.



Spanish style: The Court of the Lions in the Alhambra

STILL not as big as the Cheltenham or Hay-on-Wye events, Chester's Literature Festival is, however, climbing the charts. Held from October 4-22, speakers will include poet Roger McGough, cricket umpire Dickie Bird and Dame Cleo Laine — *who will be talking about her autobiography You can Sing if you Want*, to be published next month. More information from the festival box office (01244 341200/320700).

Fly out for a try



THE *tenth International* World Rugby Classic will take place in Bermuda from November 9-15, with the Classic Lions (a combined teams of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales players) who will be in competition with New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina, the United States, Canada and Uruguay. Sport Abroad (01306 744345) is offering seven-night packages for £974, which includes direct flights, transfers, accommodation (but not meals) and entry to all the matches.

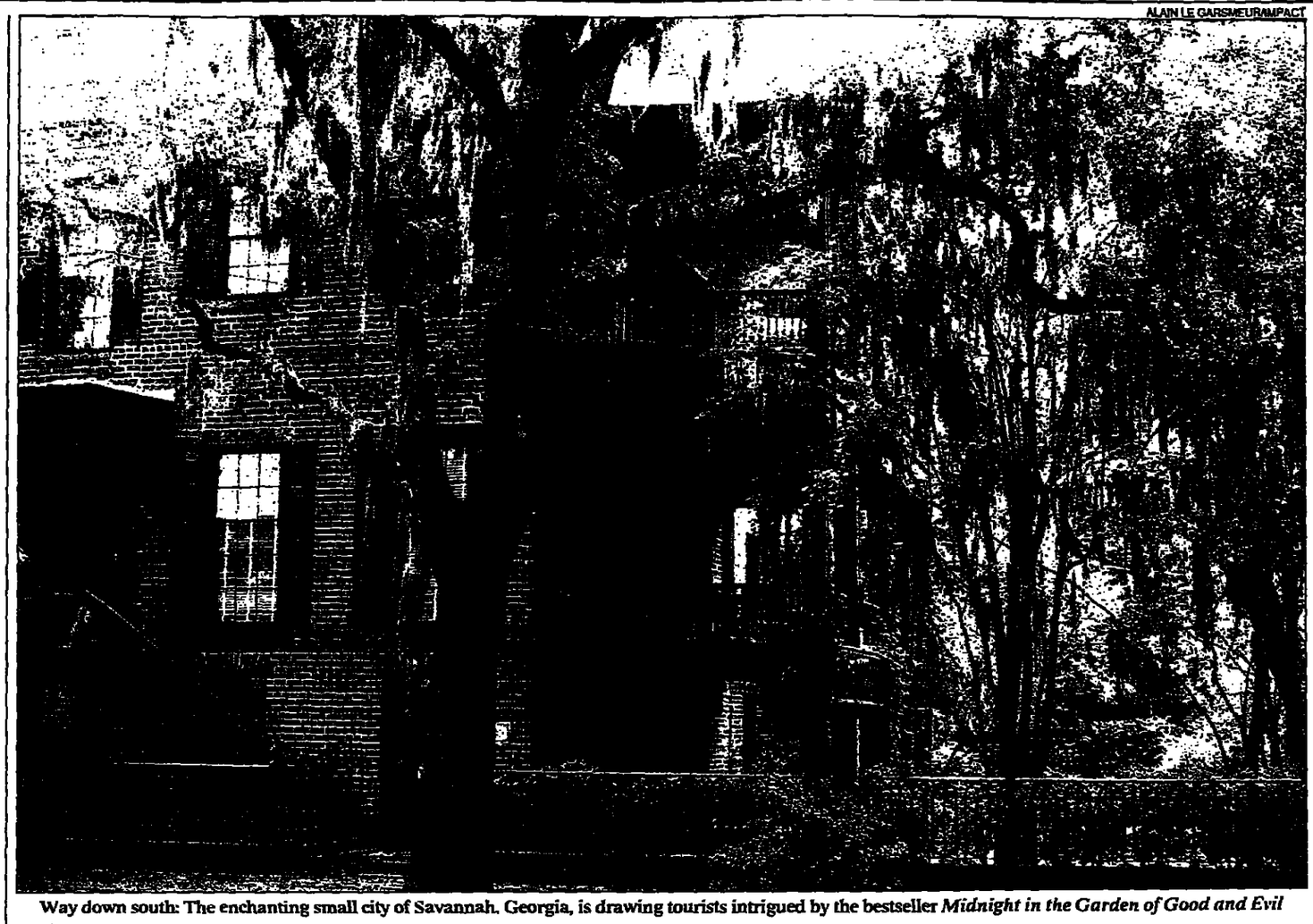
Bull's brandy

PEAK season seems an extraordinary time for the Spanish Tourist Office in London to close to the public, but this week it is moving premises. "After 20 years we had to evacuate the building, and we've been trying to move for a year," says a spokesman.

Prospective visitors should turn to Lonely Planet's first guidebook to Spain (just published at £12.99), for answers to some of the questions the tourist office might prefer not to have raised: such as the best transvestite performer in Madrid, the bar specialising in absinthe in Barcelona, and the controversy behind the 93 huge bull signs (yes, you can tell they are bulls) advertising a fiery brandy that loom over the main roads.

In the book's "Best and Worst" section, there is a big thumbs-down for Spanish bureaucracy, the dull provincial town of Albacete in Castilla-La Mancha, and beachwear on the Costa Blanca. But Seville (except in July and August), Galicia's *rias* or fiords, Madrid's nightlife and most of the Balearic islands receive a seal of approval.

The tourist office says it is "expected" to be open from Monday at 22-23 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AP (0171-486 8077). The brochure line remains as 0891 669920 (50p per minute).



ALAIN LE GARSMEUR/IMPACT

Way down south: The enchanting small city of Savannah, Georgia, is drawing tourists intrigued by the bestseller *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*

DESPITE its somewhat uninspiring title, *Time To Learn*, the booklet published by NIACE (The National Organisation for Adult Learning) is a little gem. It lists more than 2,000 special interest breaks that take place in centres all over the UK, with a few abroad, from October to March next year. The courses range from Jane Austen to Assertivness, Bats to Bellydancing, Dracula to Dowsing and Teddy Bears to Trollope, with arts and crafts, cookery, computing, gardening and languages among the most popular. UK breaks cost from £40 a day to more than £200 for a four or five-day course (which includes food, board and tuition but not travel), with overseas courses costing considerably more. *Time to Learn* costs £4.95 from NIACE (0116-204 4200).

Three in a bed

MANY ski operators' prices to North America are dependent on three or four sharing a room — or even a king-size bed — claims the *Good Skiing Guide 1998* (Which? Books, £15.99), published this week (see review below).

Hotel rooms regularly offer two large double beds, which may be suitable for families, but those who do not fancy such togetherness may find themselves paying hefty under-occupancy supplements.

First Choice has a week's B&B in Breckenridge in the USA costing between £545 and £726, including flights and car hire, based on four sharing a room. However, there is a supplement of £13.50 per person per night if only three share, and a staggering £40.50 if there are only two of you — thus adding £94.50 and £283.50 respectively to each person's one-week holiday cost.

In Vail, Inghams offers the Hotel Sonnenalp where rooms sleeping up to three people have either two doubles or one king-sized double bed. Three holiday-makers pay from £804 to £955 each; if there are only two in the room with the king-size bed, the supplement is £20.20 each per night, adding £141.40 to each person's holiday cost. Similar supplements also apply to Canada, now attracting 35,000 British skiers a year.

Within Europe, such supplements generally only apply to apartments in French purpose-built ski resorts.

IF YOU are fed up with the high pollution levels that occurred in Britain this summer, the Austrian Alpine resort of Galtur, 1,600 metres above sea level, may be the answer. It has been declared the Tyrol's first official Climatic Health Resort after five years of stringent testing of its air quality. Its location is also favourable for those who are sensitive to house mites, and for allergy sufferers with problems of high pollen levels. Further details are available from the Galtur Tourist Office (telephone 0043 5443 8521, fax 0043 5443 8521 76).

Bare boats

THE Republic of the Maldives is to allow "bareboat", or independent, charters to sail among its Indian Ocean islands from December.

Yacht charter specialist Sunsail (01705 222300) offers a fortnight's Maldives sailing package including flights and hire of 35-foot boats for £850-£1400 for each of six people sharing, or from £970-£1420 for a more comfortable passage for each of four.

Victualling is likely to present problems, however, as most of the designated "tourist" islands consist of only one hotel with no shops or cafés, and sailors will need to stock up on Malé, the main island, or buy food packs. The snorkelling and diving are superb, though, and will more than make up for this inconvenience.

Two expert guides help in choosing a ski holiday

Easy going on the piste

The annual "Where shall we go on our skiing holiday this year?" question is, for some, the beginning of an adventurous trawl through a pile of brochures; for others a decision whether to opt for that marvellous place the Joneses went to last year. Two new books aim to help readers make a more informed decision.

The Consumers' Association *The Good Skiing Guide*, now in its 12th year, has become *The Good Skiing and Snowboarding Guide*. It reports on the slopes, lifts, accommodation, restaurants and ski schools at 500 resorts, mainly in Europe and North America.

Three years ago, the publication's founding editor went off to produce a rival: *Where to Ski and Snowboard*, published by Thomas Cook, covers 1,000 resorts, again mainly in Europe and North America.

There is frankly little to choose between the two guides. *Where to Ski* uses some colour photographs and is well laid out. Its authors, Chris Gill and Dave Watts, have both been full-time ski writers for longer than they care to recall.

The Good Skiing Guide is less eye-catching, with colour maps but no photographs. But it has a reliability that has made it an essential reference book for those who work in the world of skiing. Its husband-and-wife authors, Peter Hardy and Felice Eyston, are also veteran ski writers. Either publication could revolutionise the world of any typical British skier. The wise skier could watch the snow reports, study these books and, when convinced conditions are right, book a holiday at the last minute.



Snow go: planning ahead can avoid skiing pitfalls

■ The Good Skiing and Snowboarding Guide *(Which? Ltd, £15.99), is available from bookshops or by telephoning freephone 0800 252100.*

■ Where to Ski and Snowboard *(Thomas Cook Publishing, £14.99) is available in bookshops from September 15 or by calling 01733 503571.*

GRAHAM DUFFILL

In the family for 50 years

Firm that started in a phone booth

FIFTY years ago, George Bales ventured into the travel business, making his first deal from a phone booth in London's Lower Regent Street and flying Indian students between London and Delhi — which then took 24 hours, with four stops en route.

This week, Bales Tours — as his company has been known since 1960 — celebrates its half-century as a family-run business, quite an achievement given the current dominance of large tour operators.

George, 87, has now retired but his wife Molly, 70, is Bales's managing director and this week she recalled some of the early endeavours — including their visit to China in 1966, where factory inspections and tours of communes were among the highlights.

"We were clapped and waved at wherever we went — and we clapped back," says Molly. "At the railway station, faces at the window watched us progress to the soft-seat carriage — we felt like royalty."

Bales remains best known for its Nile cruises but has also pioneered upmarket holidays to places such as Yemen, Cambodia, Bhutan and Alaska.

Costa Rica has been added for 1998, along with a 15-day Mongolia tour, which starts at £2,350 per person. Travellers will sigh when they recall the brochure for 1971, when a 30-day round-the-world trip cost £499.

■ *Call 01306 885923 for the new brochure.*

■ *City break specialist Time Off celebrates its 30th anniversary this month — although unlike Bales, it is no longer in private hands. Owner Roland Castro sold the company he built up to Thomas Cook last year. Time Off has 28 cities in its current brochure, available on 0990 840 363.*

CATH URQUHART

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 28

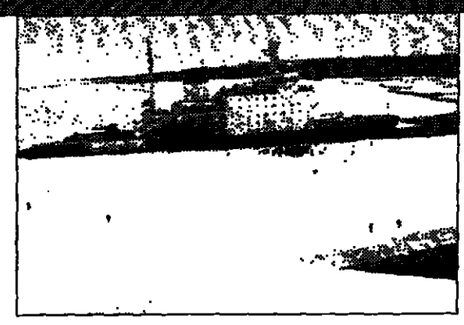
TAPNET
(a) A basket made of rushes, in which figs (formerly also raisins, etc.) are imported. *From top* an old word for a basket as a measure for grapes or figs. "Currantes or Raysens of Corinthe do not much differ in vertue from tapnet or frayle Raysens."

URAEUS
(c) A representation of the sacred asp, snake, or serpent, or of its head and neck, employed as an emblem of supreme power, sometimes specifically as worn on the head-dress of ancient Egyptian divinities and sovereigns. A modern Latinisation of the Greek *ouraios*, given by Horapollo as the Egyptian name for the cobra, perhaps influenced in form by the Greek *ourá* a tail. "I will stake the sacred circlet upon my brow against the Royal uraeus on thine."

TENSON
(a) A contest in verse between rival troubadours; a piece of verse or song composed for or sung in such a contest. From the Old French word for contention or a contest. Robert Browning, *Sordello*, 1840: "While, out of dream, his day's work went/ To tune a crazy tenzon or sirvent."

TULLIBEE
(a) A species of whitefish (*Coregonus tullibee*) found in the Great Lakes of North America. From the Cree and Odjibway *toonie-bee*. "The tullibees, often sold as fresh water herring, are only fit to eat in winter."

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Days 2 & 3 At sea.
Days 4 & 5 Macquarie Island. Home to one of the largest concentrations of wildlife in the Sub-Antarctic: Elephant seals loll among 200,000 king penguins, 25 species of birds breed here regularly including gentoo and rockhopper penguins and the light-mantled sooty albatross. Tasmanian Park Rangers will join us on our exploration which should include Sandy Bay, Lusitania Bay and the research centre at Buckles Bay.
Days 6 & 7 Sailing across the Southern Ocean.
Day 8 Balleny Islands. Here we will cross the pack ice sailing into the Ross Sea.
Days 9-15 Ross Sea. We shall make the most of our week in this incredible area. Our exact schedule will be determined by weather conditions but should include:
Cape Adare: Largest rookery of Adelie penguins, anywhere in Antarctica.
Cape Hallett/Terra Nova Bay: Stunning fjords, glaciers and mountains
New Harbour: Weather permitting we will undertake a flight to the extraordinary 1000 square mile, ice-free area known as the 'Dry Valleys'. Wonderful scenery of ice-free ground lakes, streams and glaciers. Scattered on the ground are ancient mummified seals, which mysteriously wandered inland and died.
McMurdo Sound: In the shadow of Mt Erebus we will call into large the United States research station. The modern facility surrounds Scott's remarkably well preserved 1901-04 Discovery Hut.
Ross Island: More historic exploration visiting the huts of the Terra Nova Expedition built by Scott's men between 1910-13 and Shackleton's hut at nearby Cape Royds which is surrounded by the southernmost penguin rookery.
Ross Ice Shelf: Approximately the size of France we will cruise along the 110 mile face and admire the immense tabular icebergs that are calved from this massive extension of the Polar Ice Cap. Weather permitting we hope to land by helicopter atop the 100 ft high ice barrier.
Days 16-18 Crossing the Southern Ocean.
Day 19 Campbell Island. This amazing island, a possession of New Zealand, is famous for its 15,000+ Royal Albatross. These huge birds nest amongst the brightly coloured mega-herbs
Days 20 & 21 Auckland Islands. Enderby is an enchanted place known for its rata forest and endemic wildlife. We hope to see yellow-eyed penguins, red-crowned parakeets and the rare Hooker's sea lion
Day 22 Snares Island. From our Zodiacs we can watch the wildlife of this protected Nature Reserve.
Day 23 Christchurch. Disembark after breakfast in Christchurch's port of Lyttleton.

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On Corsica, **John Mortimer** hears ancient legends; plus neighbouring Sardinia also has tales to tell



ROGER W. OLIVER



ROGER W. OLIVER

Corsica's elders, left, find that the local vendettas give island gossip a dramatic flavour; and Bonifacio's mile-long harbour, right, is one of the most beautiful in the world, and is best approached by boat



TONY STONE

Corsican pigs take a nap – and hope that the dream hunters are having a day off

On the trail of the dream hunters

Now that the South of France's coastline has become one of the most hideous places in the world, a nightmare of high-rise hotels, traffic jams, apartment blocks, advertising hoardings and expensive beaches, take a plane from Nice or, better still a boat, 100 miles southeast to Corsica.

It is an island of ghosts and vendettas, little harbours and a steep, hardly inhabited coastline that has not changed much since the wife of Charles Bonaparte of Ajaccio gave birth to a plump baby they christened Napoleon.

Corsica, rising rock-like from the Mediterranean, has been fought for, bought, and passed on like a football by a variety of invaders.

Its first civilisation is lost in mists of pre-history. Two thousand years before Christ, the Corsicans adopted the Megalithic faith, a powerful religion of the dead, and strange statues of standing warriors, some holding recognisable swords, stand on the hills round Filitosa. They are as old as time and look as modern as Henry Moore.

The Romans came and used it as a place to dump their political offenders — Seneca, the Roman philosopher and dramatist, was banished to Corsica for years. This established a Corsican tradition of obstinacy and resentment against all sorts of government. The islanders' dislike of being a department of France still erupts into violence.

The Vandals occupied the island and used its trees to build the ships on which they terrorised the Mediterranean. From the 13th century the Italian state of Genoa ruled the Corsicans. Then they had their own King Theodore, who appeared, on state occasions, wearing a scarlet kaftan, Turkish trousers, a Spanish hat with a feather and carrying a scimitar.

Pasquale Paoli, a Corsican patriot who was visited by James Boswell, Dr Johnson's biographer, declared the island independent in 1755. The French took over in 1769, and the young Napoleon grew up there. From 1794 to 1796, the British ruled Corsica.

Even more dramatic than its history are the mysterious legends (they might be even more mysterious truths) which are still alive on the island. There are not only the ancient vendettas — families still at war, for example, because a kitchen garden was invaded and vegetables stolen generations ago — there is the extraordinary behaviour of the *mazzeri*, the dream hunters who still go hunting, in or out of their bodies, in the villages that the mountainous territory makes isolated.

> 'Go to Corsica if you want to escape from plastic hotels and Muzak'

The *mazzeri* are hunters, who leave home without disturbing their sleeping spouses, and travel miles to kill wild boar or other small animals with knives, or their hands — or even, it's said, with the stems of asphodels. The moment their quarry dies the dream hunters see, in the face of the animal, the features of a relative, the priest or the doctor or just the woman next door, who magically also dies.

The same result seems to be obtained even if the hunt happened in the mind. Legend has it that one husband spoke of a wife who, he was sure, didn't leave his bed all night. In the morning she told him that she had been dream hunting and left her bloodstained knife in a cave 20 miles away. The incredulous husband travelled to the cave — and found the knife exactly as his wife had said.

Dorothy Carrington, who wrote an irresistible book, *The Dream Hunters of Corsica*, stumbled on the subject when an old man told her that he dreamt he had killed a wild boar in the night, seeing the face of his nephew in Marseilles in the boar's face. He was in tears because he had then heard of the nephew's death.

Carrington also studied the *vocera*, the songs sung as the corpse is carried to church, which often call for vengeance on an illegal death. Once, when a priest refused to toll the bell at a murderer's funeral, the song started: *May I see in a basket/The entrails of this priest/May I tear them with my teeth.*

Visitors to Corsica, happily, will have no need to go hunting boar with an asphodel in their dreams. In the main city, Ajaccio, you can walk off a packed street into a cool and elegant house where Napoleon was born — a child of the prosperous ruling class.

You can wander into the art gallery and see an erotic Titian of Zeus, having turned himself into a swan, making love to a voluptuous Leda. You can take refuge from the sun in the cool, white marble of the cathedral where Napoleon was baptized, and then travel south to Bonifacio.

If you can, you should enter Bonifacio as Odysseus and I did — from the sea. The inhabitants flung down rocks on the Greek sailors but I found them friendly.

Your first sight of Bonifacio is extraordinary, a huge pink pile of delicately folded limestone, a sort of giant's *millefeuille*, which Odysseus may well have thought looked harmless, but then you see that it is topped by a frowning fortress.

If you are in a small boat, you can glide into the echoing caves where a ray of sunshine, a cathedral beam, lightens the water to turquoise and you can see the shadowy shoals of fish. And then you sail through Bonifacio's back door, the narrow entrance between neatly folded rocks, into the mile-long harbour. The houses are tall, narrow and elegant and the inhabitants still speak in a Genoese dialect.

There are many good things in Bonifacio: excellent fish restaurants, a distant view of Sardinia and not a single vendetta. I don't think there's a more beautiful harbour in the world.

So if you want to escape from plastic hotels, muzak, coffee shops and hamburger joints, if you want to feel yourself part of a more mysterious and exciting past and a less unendurable present, sail to Corsica.

CORSICA FACT FILE

- *Ferries operate from* Marseilles, Nice and Toulon to six ports in Corsica. The Marseilles-Ajaccio route, for example, is an 11-hour overnight or seven-hour daytime journey. Prices in September are £35.50 one way per passenger; supplements for cabins. Cars from £39.70 one way (0171-491 4968).
- There are no direct scheduled flights to Corsica, only via Paris, Marseilles or Nice. Charter flights to four airports on the island operate direct from May to October.
- Simply Corsica (0181-995 9323) has charter flights until October 5 from £159, and year-round scheduled seats averaging £300. The company has holiday packages in late September from £400 a week, to include car rental and self-catering accommodation, based on two sharing.
- Other operators to Corsica include Corsican Places (01424 774366) and VFB Holidays (01242 240310). Voyages Ilena (0171-924 4440) offers holidays to both Corsica and Sardinia.
- Hiring a car: Holiday Autos (0990 300400) charges £163 a week from Ajaccio and other Corsican outlets for a Peugeot 106.
- Further information: French Tourist Office (0891 244123). Calls are charged at 50p a minute.
- Reading: *The Granite Island*, by Dorothy Carrington (Penguin, £8.99) is by far the best study of Corsica in English. *Corsica: The Rough Guide*, by David Abram and Theo Taylor (£9.99).

Getting back to barbarian basics

"They call this region Barbagia," our walking guide, Fi Lowry, told us, "which derives from the old Roman name for it: Barbaria. It was the one part of Sardinia that the Romans never conquered.

"It's just as wild today. Those stories you hear about Sardinian bandits aren't fiction. Once, when we came out on a research trip, we went to a restaurant in Nuoro which had been recommended, but when we got there the owners were too upset to see us. Their grandfather had been kidnapped and they'd just received some fingers in the post. It wasn't really a good time to call."

Sardinia is the Mediterranean's second largest island after Sicily, dwarfing Crete and Corsica, yet it attracts few British visitors. Those who do go tend to sizzle on the beaches of the Costa Smeralda in the north, yet the south of Sardinia is closer to Africa than it is to Italy, and the interior is ideal walking country, a craggy mix of mountains and limestone gorges, with fertile, vine-filled valleys and towns clinging to hillsides in chequerboard patterns of brown roofs and white walls.

> A walk reveals the wild side of an ancient Mediterranean island

As we walked through the Gorge of Gorropu one day, Fi stopped and pointed out a plant with a prehistorical story attached. "This is the *ferula*, or giant fennel. It's incredibly strong, but it's a very light wood when cut, so the Sardinian shepherds use them to make stools, which they can then easily sling over their backs.

"The dried pith also burns very slowly indeed as tinder, so shepherds carry fire from one site to the next by lighting a giant fennel. Prometheus is said to have brought the fire he stole from heaven down to earth in a *ferula*."

Fi was not so much a mine of information as a cavern of entertaining facts and anecdotes, which added vastly to what would otherwise have been merely pleasant strolls through stunning scenery. "Sardinia is very good for birds of prey," she told us. "There are golden eagles, lammergeiers, goshawks, kites. In the south there's a large colony of the fairly rare Eleonora's falcons. Eleonora was a Sardinian queen of the 14th century who was very interested in wildlife and an early conservationist. She saw that these falcons were falling in numbers and started to protect them, so they named the bird after her."

Sardinia was inhabited by a civilisation found nowhere else in the world and which still puzzles archaeologists. There are an estimated 7,000 *nuraghi* on the island, remains of small settlements now thought to be fortified villages, dating from Nuraghic times — which lasted nearly a millennium from 1500 BC.

We sweated and hauled our way up to one called Tiscali, a cluster of crumbling houses that had been preserved because earth and stone had collected over them to form a natural roof, now partially collapsed. These ruins are among the earliest known, a man-made structure so ancient that a stalagmite had started to form on one of the doorposts from the drip from the rock roof above.

Our week of walks was filled with the rich scent of the *macchia*. This aromatic mix of plants — a type of undergrowth found only on Sardinia and Corsica — permeates the air of the island. Walking in the lower *macchia* you see and smell marjoram, lavender and wild thyme, while in the higher *macchia* there are cork oaks, holm oaks, giant heather and tree strawberries.

Whole hillsides of these miniature strawberries turn from yellow to red, looking from across the valley like pointillist paintings. Sulphur-yellow brimstone butterflies cross the paths.

"Have you noticed," a fellow walker said to me, "how everything is much more vividly coloured in the Mediterranean? Look at that chaffinch. I mean, we've got chaffinches at home but that one looks as if it's been polished."

Each morning's walk led us to a gargantuan picnic lunch of Sardinian cheeses, salamis, fruits, fresh bread and wine, all bought in the local markets by the tour manager, Simona Cattabiani, while Fi was leading us down gorges, along coastal paths or up hillsides. Wherever we were, come lunchtime we would turn a corner and there would be a Sardinian spread like a Lord Mayor's banquet. And that was only lunch.

Our base for the week was the Hotel Su Gologone, standing alone in the hills near Oliena and whose restaurant, according to one guidebook, has the best regional cuisine on the island.

"Our first course tonight," Simona would begin, "is *pane frattau*, which is a kind of pancake called a *pane carasau* with tomato, grated sheep's cheese, and a poached egg on top. For main course we'll be having *porcheddu* and *vitella*. *Porcheddu* is a suckling pig which has been roasted for four hours . . ." By the time she got to the dessert, I was almost drooling. "This is a traditional dish of ricotta cheese with asphodel honey and wine which is cooked with cinders until it thickens and the cinders give it a bitter taste to contrast with the honey and cheese . . ."

After that, what else could we do but make the day's final walk: as far as the hotel bar for a nightcap of Myrto, a myrtle liqueur that's made only on Sardinia and is said to settle the stomach. After a day of Sardinian food you could see why they invented it. If this is Barbagia, I thought, then just call me a born-again barbarian.

MIKE GERRARD



CAMERA PRESS

The south of Sardinia is closer to Africa than to Italy and the terrain is good for building up a healthy appetite

SARDINIA FACT FILE

- Mike Gerrard travelled with Meridiana Airlines and the Alternative Travel Group.
- The Alternative Travel Group (01865 310399) offers holidays including a one-week "Wilds of Sardinia" break, departing October 11, from £1,240 per person, including accommodation in a four-star hotel and flights. All meals are included. It is suitable for any level of walker.
- Flights with Meridiana Airlines (0171-839 2222) to Olbia in September cost from £249 return from Gatwick.
- When to go: April, May, September and October are best.
- Books: *Sardinia* by Andrew Gerald Gravette (Windrush Press, £9.95).
- Tips: A water bottle is essential. Take good walking boots, a sun hat, sun cream and a swimming costume.
- Further information: Italian State Tourist Board, 1 Princess Street, London W1R 8AY (0171-408 1254).

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WELSH lady 50 likes dancing, swimming, travelling, DIY, pets, wine & dine WLTM gentleman for friendship marriage if compatible. Box No 7245

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ZZZzzz Wake up! Club Encounters is open Saturday & Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

BEAUTIFUL Caribbean girl, 25, slim, stylish, fun-loving, seeks handsome, athletic, successful, solvent, romantic gentleman, 28-38, whose reply for the real thing. London based. Box No 6948

BLONDE, attractive, professional female (London based), 36, WLTM intelligent, kind, affectionate male for love and marriage. Please write with photo to Box No 6976

BUBBLY blonde with a brain (coED), 30 something! Pretty, fit, or pretty fit! Could you fit pretty well? (into my life). If you are 30 or 40 something, busy I'm in Surrey. Please reply to Box No 6932

COUNTRY Living? 40s looks mid-30s, warm, caring, romantic. Lives old Somerset farmhouse. WLTM slim, pretty woman in 30s. Please Reply to Box No 6617

CHESHIRE pref female 44 WLTM real man who is fit, witty and fun and who enjoys good food, good music and good places. Please send recent photo ALA. Reply Box No 6742

HAMPSHIRE lady attractive, 38, quite educated, genuine, 40-55 for lasting relationship. Please reply to Box No 7002

I'M definitely not cut out for this living alone malarkey!! If you're 38-48, fun, friendly, good value, uncomplicated and like me want to spend quality time with a quality person, regardless of interests. London. Photo please, reply to Box No 6954

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GENTLEMEN

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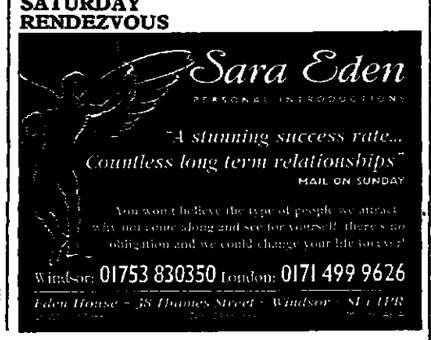
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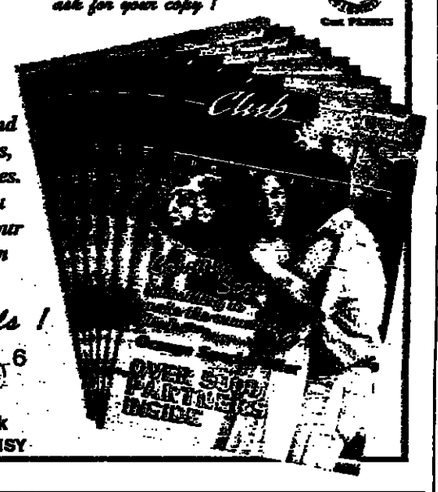
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NEXT Then find out what members are doing in your area! Nice colour pictures.

VEGETARIAN, smoke-free county lovers meet their match at Mutual Friends. Free details: stamp.

ASSERTIVE attractive, strong lady (prof no dss), 34-50 sought by self employed business, 35, very independent of the time, who has worship a adventurous interests from Anglia to keep fit etc. Photo anywhere.

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark man, Dir, just 25, London based. Recently out of relationship [illegible] arranged. Photo [illegible] London [illegible] sport, [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] London [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

CHESS

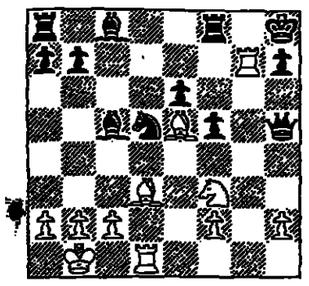
by Raymond Keene

AFTER the excitement of the British Championship and the Mind Sports Olympiad I revert this week, as promised, to answering your queries.

Indeed, the first question in this week's column concerns a game from the British Championship play-off and contains a brilliant insight by a reader which would considerably have improved on the play of co-British champion Matthew Sadler.

In fact, had Sadler seen this superb idea beforehand, his game would have gone down in the annals of great queen sacrifices.

The following position occurred after 17 moves of the game Sadler-Miles, Smith & Williamson British Championship play-off 1997, and was given in the daily column which was published in *The Times* on August 19.



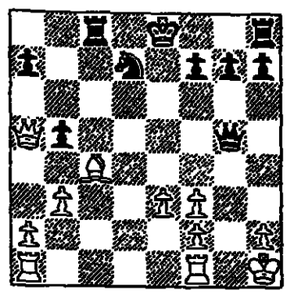
Grandmaster Sadler now continued 18 Rg5+ Nf6 19 Rxh5 with an extremely strong position which he eventually won.

Mr Gait of Harrow points out that instead of regaining his queen, White could have played 18 Rlg1, threatening Rg8 mate, and if 18 ... Nf6 19 Bxf6 Rxf6 20 Rg8 mate.

This is very well spotted and is completely correct. 18 Rlg1 would, in fact, have forced an extremely quick mate. Possibly the best ever comment by a *Times* reader.

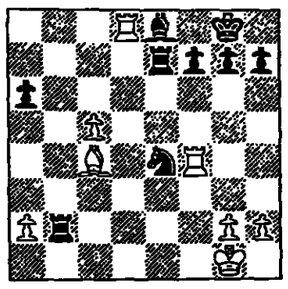
The following diagram is the final position from the game Kramnik-Ivanchuk which was played in Dortmund in 1997.

It was in this position that Ivanchuk resigned.



Mr Ball of Devon suggests this resignation was premature and Black could have tried 1 ... Qf6, aiming for perpetual check on f3 and g4 if White should capture a black pawn on the queenside. However, White would meet 1 ... Qf6 with 2 Be2 and inevitably win a further pawn on the queenside. He would then be two pawns ahead — more than enough to win at a high level. Should Black try 1 ... Qf6 2 Be2 Rc2 White simply plays 3 Qxb5 banishing any perpetual check and staying two pawns ahead.

White to play. From Nogueiras-Frias, Cuba 1997. Winning Move on August 7. White, a piece down, can regain his material with 1 Rxe8+ Rxe8 2 Bxf7+. Can he do better than this?



Solution: 1 Rxf7! leaves Black without a decent reply, eg 1 ... Rb1+ 2 Rf1+ and wins. Mr Feinson of Suffolk suggests that Black could meet 1 Rxf7 with 1 ... Rb1+ 2 Bf1 Nd2. However, White counters 1 ... Rb1+ with 2 Rf1+ (discovered check) and Black's position collapses.

WINNING MOVE

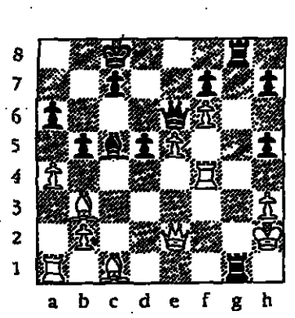
By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Werle - Meijere, Antwerp 1997.

Black has sacrificed a piece to obtain an iron grip along the g-file. How did he now make the most of this?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's winner: L Whitmore, Coalville, Leicestershire.



Last week's solution: 1 ... Bg4

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

WHERE IS the handheld market heading? This is the question begged by a recent trend in Japan, where exam-cramming software for the Nintendo Game Boy did booming sales among students. Once vilified for sapping attention and interest among children, handhelds now have a new future.

Game Boy sales still plod along with a few gimmicks to keep them fashionable. Last year the slender, smaller brother came out, the metallic Pocket Game Boy. Now we are getting the coloured Pocket Game Boy range. But there is also a new kid on the block, admittedly bulkier but in some ways brainier. Tiger Electronics has launched the 8-bit **game.com**, a handheld console for £79.99 with a touch-sensitive LCD screen. It comes with a stylus and built in are several basic facilities including phone book, calculator, near-useless calendar and the standard playing-card version of Solitaire. Games are added with teeny cartridges and the unit can hold two.

A decent range of game.com software is not yet with us in Britain. The best are the minor racing game **Indy 500** and **Wheel of Fortune**, despite a heavy American slant on many answers.

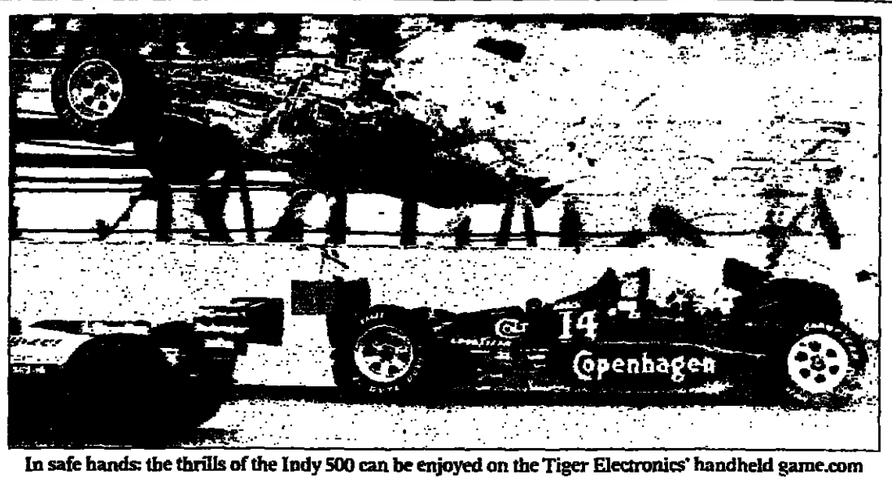
But the best, and the best indication that the uses for dedicated game hardware are beginning to drift, is yet to come: game.com's Internet cartridge. With this, and a cable, you can connect to an external modem and access text-based Internet services and e-mail functions, so long as you have an account with a suitable server. It may be a slow and frustrating way to do your Internet business and it may even be more trouble than it is worth, but at least it can be done. It is something you cannot do with any other game console so far.

This column, too, is now open to e-mails and you can send in your gaming and Internet comments, tips, finds and observations to cyber@dircon.co.uk. You can also write to the address below. When appropriate, entries for competitions will also be accepted by e-mail.

Malcolm Perella from Newcastle upon Tyne is a lecturer in pure mathematics at Northumbria University who came to the assistance of another reader earlier this year who was looking for a copy of the original game **Go**. Mr Perella is also seeking help from the column to track down a copy of the Japanese game **Shogi**, incorporating a hint facility. He explained: "The game is like chess with one important difference — captured pieces can be dropped by the taker back on to the board like parachutists. I no longer have a Shogi partner to play with so I only play against the machine, but I am not a strong player." If you know of a suitable version of the game, please write in and we will forward details to Mr Perella.

Finally, a reminder to those intending to enter Cyberspace Thirty-Five: be quick as it closes on Wednesday. We have a dozen sets of Anglia Multimedia's Super Iron-On Kits to be won, with which you can design and make your own T-shirt. The competition is open to all, with six kits to be won by readers aged 15 and under and six by those over 15. All you have to do to take part is come up with a winning T-shirt slogan. Your caption can be long or short, so long as it is thought-provoking or funny. Illegible entries will be disqualified.

Write your slogan on a postcard, together with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty-Five, Computer Games & Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You can also e-mail your entry to us, so long as it is clearly marked Cyberspace Thirty-Five Entry, at cyber@dircon.co.uk. Normal *Times* competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into any correspondence.



In safe hands: the thrills of the Indy 500 can be enjoyed on the Tiger Electronics' handheld game.com

LATEST SOFTWARE

MICKEY MOUSE made his debut alongside his sweetheart Minnie in the 1928 film *Steamboat Willie*. Pluto arrived in 1930 in a minor role in *The Chain Gang*. Then in 1932 Goofy appeared, originally called Dippy Dawg. Donald Duck quacked on to the screen in 1934 and, three years later, his partner: Daisy. Now all six appear in Disney's **Magic Artist**.

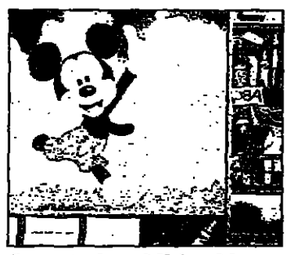
This title tries to teach you how to draw like Disney's artists. Short animation sequences explain how each character is drawn. They also give away Disney rules. Daffy's eyes, for example, "are tall, oval shapes like eggs that sit on the axis line of his head; the pupils usually touch the edge of the eyes".

It is essentially a picture-painting package with art tools, kaleidoscopic colour schemes and effects. Sound also plays its part. Add text to the pictures and, as you strike a key, my favourite sound effect for the PC strikes up: an electric typewriter.

It has other pleasures. Up to 50 sketchbooks can be filled with 50 saved original pictures for an onscreen slide show, set to tacky music medleys. Pictures can also be printed or exported as bitmap files.

The dual format Mac/PC CD-Rom is available later this month. Disney's website is at http://www.disney.co.uk/disneyinteractive.

VERDICT: Eight out of ten. Slick, inviting and enduring fun art studio package, £39.99.



Learn to draw Mickey Mouse

FLASHY Tom Cruise types who fancy instant gratification playing a *Top Gun* fighter pilot are advised to sidestep Empire Interactive's **F/A-18 Hornet 3.0**. This is a game for the serious.

The Hornet is one of the mainstays of the American Air Force's fighter fleet. It first appeared at the 1971 Paris Air Show as a full-scale mock-up with a brief to "be "a lightweight fighter that could outperform the MiG-17 yet still carry a large external weapons load".

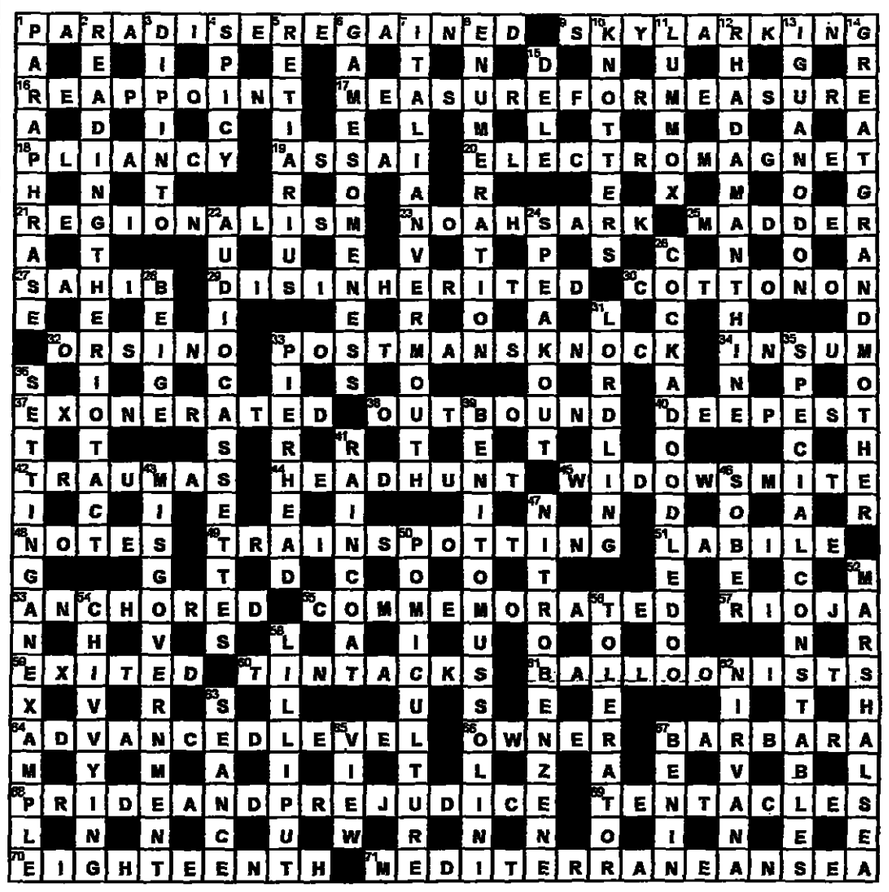
The Hornet is seriously mean, and flying this monster can be seriously difficult. You can opt for the instant flying fun mode, but it is complicated stuff, and not for quick-thrill seekers.

Learning to operate this flight simulator properly is a lengthy process. But once you are competent, you get to take on missions, and there are scores of targets and enemy opponents to take out.

The game engine and its presentation are robust and efficient. The graphics are crisp and, when you are about to crash, the view switches from inside the cockpit to a third-party view of the mishap.

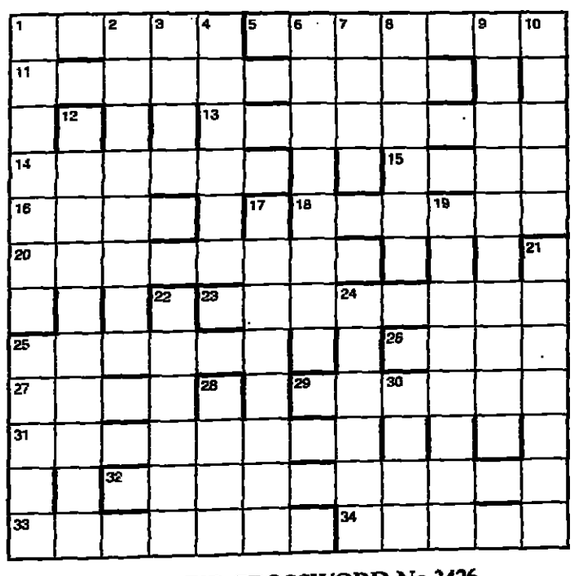
VERDICT: Seven out of ten. Sober and complex flight sim for aficionados. £34.99.

SOLUTION TO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO CROSSWORD



THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3426: Directions Enclosed by Adam



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3426
in association with Waterstone's

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Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3426, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, September 18.

W

WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10



Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181-742 3800.

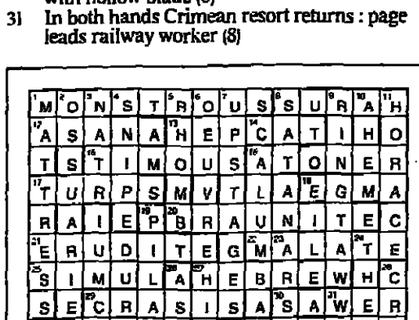
EIGHTEEN of the clues, nine Across, nine Down, are of the Letters Latent type in which a letter is removed from the answer as often as it occurs to form the light. Subsidiary indications in these clues are to the devilled form entered in the diagram. Taken in order, these letters provide an instruction that enables the solver to proceed with solving the remaining clues. All indications in brackets are to the length of the light. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended but one answer is only given as part of a two-word entry.

ACROSS

1 Makes chips crispier, scud returning (5)
5 Dowdies are spiritless, bewitching set in driver's aid (7)
11 Insect with a fit follows ambition for injury (10)
13 Reduce volume of company out of make up getting strong replacement (8)
14 Verity with latent energy provides essential back up (6)
15 What a great pity copper-glance seldom provides it (4)
16 Without question most scrupulous, tranquil (4)
18 Extremely knowledgeable about river end (6)
20 Centralise last of flavour and go for measurement of relative density (8)
23 Tending to bruise that's after Count's upset (8)
25 Wild horse doggedly set on saving face (6)
26 Having the least possible content ruins narrative verse (4)
27 Yellowhammer — there's remarkable sex appeal evident in the breed (4)
29 Zig-zag cut follows reflex angle accurately with hollow blade (6)
31 In both hands Crimean resort returns : page leads railway worker (8)
32 One gets kick back in limits of extreme tactical manoeuvre (10)
33 Violet dyes extracted from Loch Ness with research grant perhaps (7)
34 Netherlands town, Liberal Prime Minister (5)

DOWN

1 Such grooves have islands taking most of direction (7)
2 Extinct ornithopod plants shrub in Southern English river (8)
3 Bargain suggests something bundled (4)
4 Warrant officer stricken with pain consults Indian chief (6)
6 Name hidden in scrambled egg — that's begetting as was (8)
7 Minor wound — painful blackhead removed (4)
8 When timeless perfect fit produces dental cavity (6)
9 Cover up and monkey with a doctor (10)
10 What is causing the upset this time? (5)
12 Letter project in ill-mannered person, one who rides the surf (10)
17 Obstruct everyone under weight (8)
19 Someone reckless, dire, heartless may be spared (8)
21 Eve gets pains after vote (7)
22 Hemisphere without using the rest improves undressed leather (6)
24 Damaged linter offers plant feature (6)
25 Print baseless attempt to work hard at grammar school (5)
28 Mac's fruit found in dell — one that's penniless (4)
30 Fruit term, reminiscent of life with cutie perhaps (4)



Solution to No 3423: Cathexis from Dimitry

Across: 1 Stockhausen; 8 Urari; 12 Kink; 13 Croft; 15 Castles; 16 Kathode; 17 Frusta; 18 Mog; 20 Dry-salt; 21 Aberite; 22 Jumbo; 25 Scilla; 27 Yahweh; 29 Smirs; 30 Curio; 32 Rip-saw; 33 Persona; 35 Cerberus; 38 Kebab; 40 Ischia; 41 Kilobit; 42 Mirza; 43 Banker; 44 Acrid; 45 Eliot; 46 Flophouses.

Down: 1 Castrates; 2 Solarises; 3 Mustard; 4 Deaf-aids; 5 Carry; 6 Yearly; 7 Postbags; 8 Judas; 9 Latching; 10 Roc; 11 Homer; 14 Lucuma; 19 Blimp; 23 Shaken; 24 Exporter; 26 Huskers; 27 Himalayas; 28 Marxism; 29 Bohemia; 31 Fish-hawk; 32 Euterpe; 33 Keypad; 34 Freckled; 36 Amuse; 37 Phobia; 39 Navy.

The winner is J.W. Leonard of Sutton Courtenay, Oxon. The five runners-up are: R.A. England of London; John Sparrow of Padbury, Bucks; Sylvia Jordan of Didcot, Oxon; Brian G. Midgley of Ettington, Warwickshire; Alan Lye of Edinburgh.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN A teams match or at rubber bridge, it is not the end of the world to double a game contract that turns out to be unbeatable.

However, to double Four Hearts, for example, does cost an extra 170 when they make it, and is more expensive if they redouble and/or make overtricks. Thus it is not good policy to double if you think the contract is going one off at best. The reward of an extra 50 or 100 does not justify the downside. But the risk is well worth taking when there are prospects of the contract going more than one down, for a substantial penalty.

What is a disaster is when declarer is able to use the information presented to him by the double to make a contract he wouldn't have made had it remained undoubled. That was the case on the hand shown below.

Dir East — North-South game — IMPs

	♠K872 ♥A83 ♦Q2 ♣AK93	
♠A109 ♥KQ4 ♦A863 ♣1075	N W E S	♠653 ♥9 ♦KJ109754 ♣Q4
	♠QJ4 ♥J107652 ♦- ♣J862	

W	N	E	S
J'dain	T'end	R'cliffe	King
-	-	4D	Pass
5D	Dble	Pass	5H
Pass (!)	Pass	Pass	

Contract: Five Hearts by South.
Lead: the ace of diamonds

The deal is taken from the sixth round of the 1997 Crockfords Cup, which Tom Townsend's team went on to win.

In the modern game, a six-card suit is considered long enough for a three-level non-vulnerable pre-empt. Ratcliffe (East) therefore felt constrained to open his classical three bid at the four level. If he had an antique Four Diamonds pre-empt, no doubt he would have opened Five Diamonds.

Having boosted the pre-empt, Patrick Jourdain (West) passed unconcernedly over Five Hearts. That looks a fine decision to me. With his partner holding at least seven diamonds, it was quite likely that the ace of diamonds would not stand up and the ace of hearts was probably on his left. So West really does not have more than two certain defensive tricks.

King ruffed the diamond lead and took the percentage line in trumps, ace and another, to go one down. That gains when East has singleton queen or king, twice as likely as his actual holding of singleton nine.

At the other table the bidding proceeded identically up to and including Five Hearts, which West (David Price) doubled. He took the optimistic view that Five Hearts might fail by more than one trick, especially if partner could chip in with a stray something-or-other outside diamonds. East did indeed contribute the queen of clubs, but unfortunately it fell doubleton.

After West's borderline double, the declarer (Akram Zaman) played West for king-queen of hearts, and ran the jack of hearts to hold his trump losers to one. He thus made his contact entirely because of the clues from the double.

West's aggression had turned out to be extremely expensive.



TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

Solutions to the puzzles found on page 28

Question 1: Isthmus

Question 2: Six (each horizontal row has two numbers that are half the other two).

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Today is the first instalment of *Morgan's Modern Manners*, a weekly letters column which will answer your questions about good manners and etiquette. It will, no doubt, cover a wide variety of topics including the milestones of life — births and baptisms, engagements and weddings, separation and divorce, remarriage, deaths, funerals and memorial services, as well as all aspects of social and business life ranging from how to behave on formal occasions to the conduct of personal relationships.

Some might say that in our abrasive age good manners are all but extinct, but to paraphrase Mark Twain, reports of their death are greatly exaggerated. Since the publication of my book *Debrett's New Guide To Etiquette And Modern Manners* (now in its fifth reprint), my postbag has burgeoned with inquiries on how to deal with social challenges in our multi-faceted society — challenges which the traditional protocols are ill-equipped to solve. The result is confusion. My job is to provide practical and easy-to-understand solutions which will also, I hope, amuse and entertain you along the way. I look forward to hearing from you.



Q There seems to be confusion about the etiquette of social kissing. When — and whom — should we kiss on the cheek? Should we kiss once, twice or even three times like some continentals? Standardisation of a practice which can cause awkardness and embarrassment is surely long overdue. — Philip Watson, London W9.

A Social kissing, as the name suggests, is usually reserved for social life, unless you work in lovey-dovey métiers such as fashion, magazines, the theatre and so on, where no professional greeting is complete without osculatory over-excitement. It is crass and presumptuous to kiss people you are meeting for the first time: a traditional handshake or small nod of the head is all that is called for. The only site for a social kiss is the cheek: attempts at mouths, foreheads or any other part of the anatomy display distinctly sexual rather than social intentions. One kiss is usual for the older generation, two permissible for young people, but three is quite excessive for any age. If kissing twice, it is usual to adopt a left-right sequence.

Q Having recently become engaged to be married, I was invited to lunch by my prospective parents-in-law. As a friendly (and I thought polite) gesture I arrived with a seriously good bottle of wine. My fiancée's father, rather than appearing pleased to receive the present, frostily put it to one side. What did I do wrong? — Hugh Dudley, Herefordshire.

A Taking presents to dinner parties is tricky. Although widely practised among the younger generation, it is not always appreciated by older people. Do not take a present to a formal dinner, particularly if it is black tie. Even when a present is welcome, choosing the right thing requires thought and should be appropriate to the host. I usually recommend taking something small and special such as an exquisite box of chocolates. Flowers can be problematical as unwrapping them, finding a vase and putting them in water presents the hostess with an extra chore she can easily do without at that particular time. As far as restoring your credibility with your starchy future father-in-law, I suggest you just write him a really good thank-you letter.

Q Whenever I am telephoned out of the blue by a friend with a ghastly invitation, I find it hard to think of an excuse fast enough and always end up either accepting it or sounding like a lying hound. Can you help me with a nifty formula? — Mrs G Page, Norfolk.

A You need a DDD, also known as a Double Diary Device. It allows you to play for time while you make up your mind. All you have to say is: "I'd love to but first of all I must look in my office/home/upstairs/downstairs/husband's/wife's diary. Can I ring you back?"

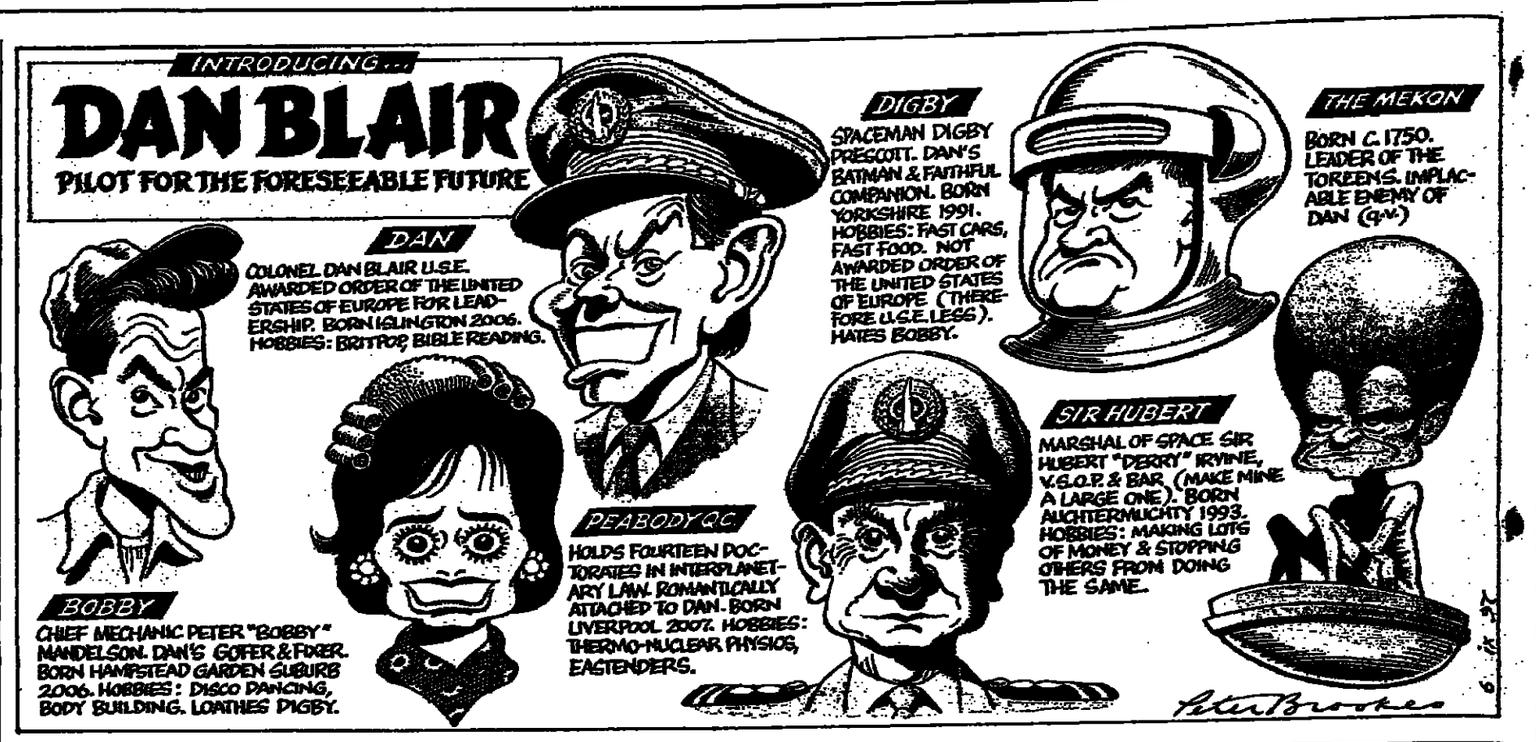
Q How can I avoid uncomfortable silences after making introductions at a party? — Oliver Ryder, London SW6.

A Immediately after introducing people, follow up with a short biographical detail such as "Peter has just been to Antarctica" or, even better, say something that establishes common ground between guest and host, for example: "Peter and I met when we had holiday jobs as Butlin's Redcoats."

Q I am not normally clumsy, but while with a new girl friend at a restaurant I accidentally knocked my drink all over the tablecloth. My embarrassment was made worse because the staff took a long time to clean up the mess. What should I have done? — Name and address withheld.

A Insouciance is called for. If waiters do not respond immediately, quickly spread your napkin over the offending stain, which at least hides it from view. Anna Wintour, the super-cool editor of *American Vogue*, showed great aplomb when a dead animal was thrown on to her table at The Royalton in New York by an anti-fur protester. Unperturbed, she placed her napkin over the offending article before imperiously summoning staff to remove it.

● *The author is associate editor of* GQ.



PICTURE LINE

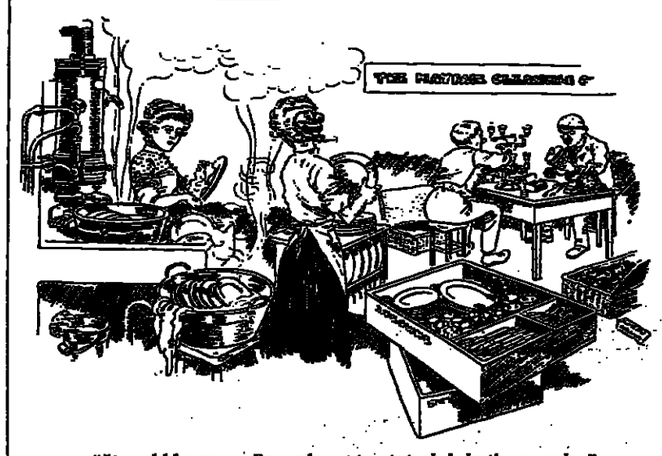
READERS are invited to suggest what the people in the picture below are saying.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 10.





"It could be worse, I've only got two tutorials in the morning"

This winning caption for last week's final PunchLine competition was submitted by Professor P.L. Payne of Westhill, Aberdeenshire. From today the competition is replaced by PictureLine, see above for details

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TAPNET
a. A fig basket
b. A hairpiece
c. A trout net

URAEUS
a. A satellite of Mars
b. A blood disease
c. A holy snake

TENSON
a. A verse contest
b. A carpentry joint
c. Three/four time

TULLIBEE
a. A white fish
b. Part of a turban
c. A Ciceronian spelling exercise

Answers on page 23

TWO BRAINS

RESEARCH suggests that stimulating the mind with mental exercise may cause brain cells to branch wildly. This branching causes millions of additional connections. "Think of it as a computer with a bigger memory board. You can do more things more quickly" (Arnold Scheibel, Director of Brain Research Institute, UCLA).

Verbal intelligence is one of the major factors in IQ testing. Vocabulary has been found to be the single type of intelligence most highly correlated with success. Numerical intelligence is the second major factor in IQ testing and refers to the ability to play with the numerical alphabet.

Q1: Land is to sea as ? is to strait.

Q2: Insert the missing number

2	4	8	4
6	5	3	10
4	3		8

Answers: page 27

R.K.

CROSSWORDS

by Brian Greer

Bridge, chess and computer games all have their niche; so should not crosswords, with their equally wide audience, have one too? That is why this weekly column for crosswordians starts today. It provides me with a spot to elucidate our more diabolical clues, provide background on technical and artistic aspects of crossword compilation, pontificate on stylistic niceties, celebrate the most ingenious clues, pass on gossip from the crossword subculture, reminisce on the history of the crossword puzzle and generally deal with solvers' queries.

As a matter of record, the 1997 Times Crossword Championship was held recently at the Festival Hall in conjunction with the Mind Sports Olympiad. An enthusiastic field of 346 competitors converged from as far afield as Cornwall and Kirriemuir. In an extremely close finish, only one-and-a-half minutes separated David Howells, Alastair Sutherland and Mike Wareham in the first three places.

We hope that next year it will be possible to find a new sponsor so normal service can be resumed, with regional finals and the doubles event that proved so popular on its introduction in 1996. The first puzzle used in the championship was reproduced in *The Times* last Wednesday, and the remaining three will appear on succeeding Wednesdays. A number of readers have told me they would like to see an occasional puzzle pitched at the level of difficulty of Eliminators (used when more contestants qualify than there are spaces available), and this is being considered.

The daily cryptic crossword, for which I am responsible, may be considered the flagship of a fleet that is reinforced today by the cruciverbal equivalent of an aircraft carrier, namely a weekly Jumbo. At the helm, as editor for these puzzles, will be Mike Laws.

By way of continuing introductions, let me recall that Leonard Bernstein called our cryptic puzzle the second-best crossword in the world. What, then, did he consider the best? The Listener puzzle, of course. The editors are Mike Rich and Ross Beresford — general correspondence should go to the former and puzzles for consideration to the latter. To complete the line-up, Richard Browne is the "onlie begetter" of Crossword Two.

All of us operate from home, not from *The Times* office. Consequently, correspondence sent to us at *The Times* (1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN) is forwarded, and this process will be expedited if you address your letter to the appropriate person.

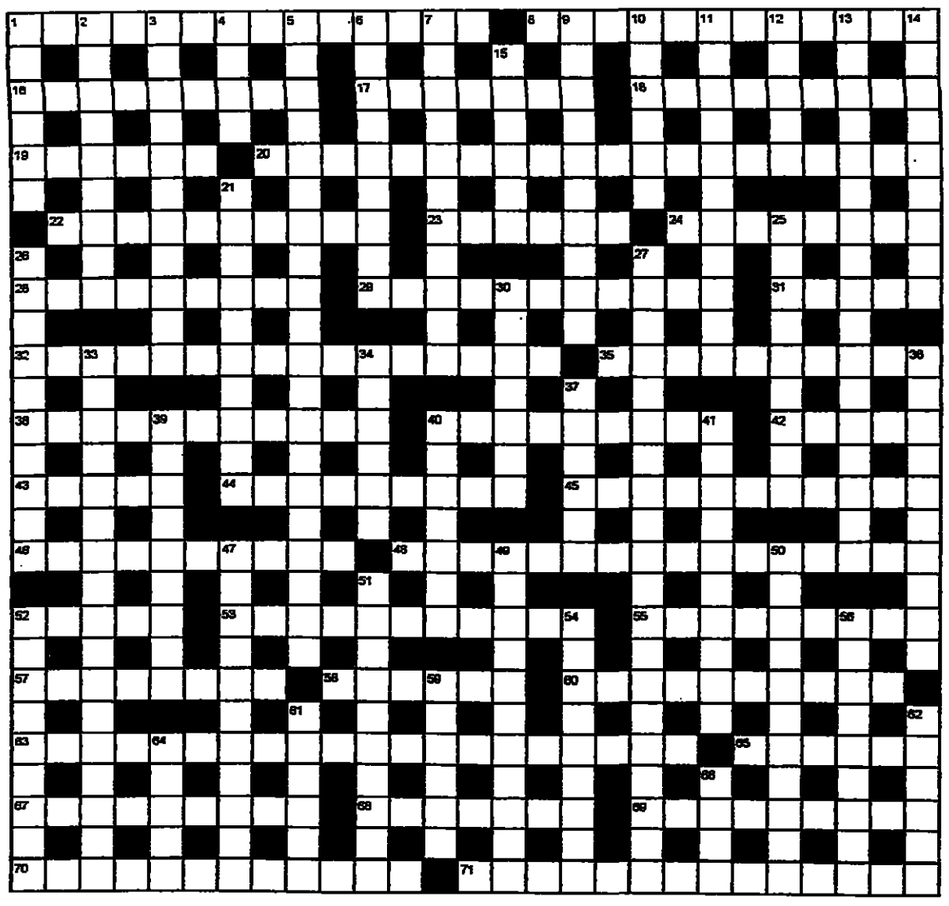
During the next few weeks I plan to deal with some basic information about the nuts and bolts of the art and science of crossword creation. Keep the feedback coming and let's see how this forum develops.

● *The author is crossword editor of* The Times

JUMBO CROSSWORD 126



The prize for the first six correct solutions opened will be a Dunhill AD200, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined in shape and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 126, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday September 15. The names of the winners will be published in Weekend on Saturday, September 20



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

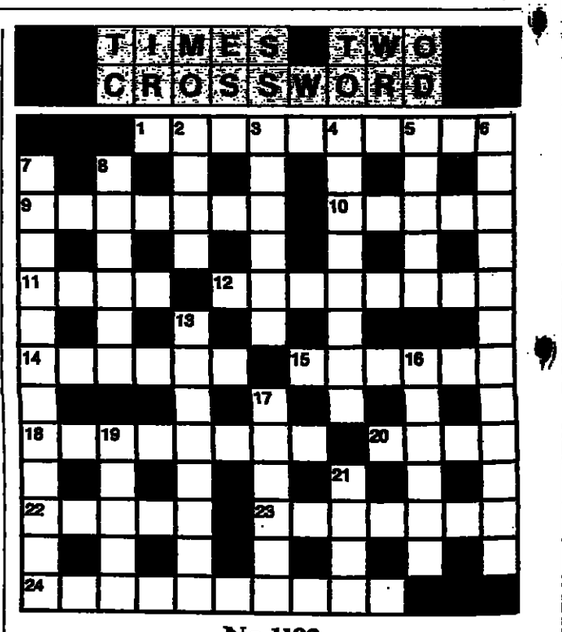
..... POSTCODE .....

ACROSS

1 Angle straightened out in nurse's bedside manner (8,6)
8 Reading Priestley aloud, and keeping classes in order (12)
16 Make an effort to get somewhere in the running for office? (9)
17 Write backing before melody in part of popular classic (7)
18 CD I'm remixing with fantastic choir, packaged in two colours? (9)
19 Finally fixed date of departure (6)
20 One came off stage, having landed part in the Apollo (5,9,6)
22 Corpulent one with a bulge could be! (10)
23 One's on top of the world, going overseas (3-3)
24 Bungled quiz about China, missing a question — the answer's a vegetable (8)
28 Opus recalling Tarka? Book one's back in stock (9)
29 I lost enough, ill-advisedly involved in rock production (11)
31 Welsh community featured in *Under* —? (5)
32 An old meeting place (5,3,4,4)
35 Veteran taking a break in Oman? (3,7)
38 Barred building in local environment (6,5)
40 Disastrous outcome of rock'n'rolling? (9)
42 Short story about cricket side using certain pitches (5)
43 Evidence of Parthenon's original covering (5)
44 Retained approach used in mystic design (9)
45 Monkey business in a fellow's study? (11)
46 Bank's about to assess sailor — how investments should be made? (10)
48 Transfer sounds OK, if one's available? (8,8)
52 Made a greeting somewhat kinky? (5)
53 Relative has twins besotted with serial (6-2-3)
55 Answer briefly about Italian town — a state capital (9)
57 Almost divulged age, not losing heart, and without complaints? (8)
58 Shoot, when passing across — sure to be intercepted by right back (6)
60 Office needing good man, flanked by wise ones making suggestions? (10)
63 Let me know if you're coming to do the full version (8,3,4,5)
65 Stroppy kid took in what workers had to do (6)
67 Working on a member of staff (9)
68 Little grasp of digital procedure? (3-4)
69 Put in unusual letters — second used not the last? (9)
70 Lament red's involvement with 20, briefly getting caught up (12)
71 Touring players have these flings (3-5,6)

DOWN

1 Monkey about overseas, making silly mistake (6)
2 Exploit support offered by the underground? (9)
3 Communicate with one colleague without taking sides (11)
4 In a position to make a minor admission? (4)
5 It pays to look after one's circulation (10,10)
6 Jog the memory, and request attention (4,1,4)
7 Softening one's expression (11)
9 Popular beer ad? It upset drunk (10)
10 Retreat, seeing brightly coloured formal dress, topless? (6)
11 Asks about a prisoner — they're under control again (11)
12 Endlessly nag famous brother (5)
13 One may stop the *Express* going ahead (13,4)
14 Fond of fine food — traditional sweet, say? (9)
15 Fast cut short, man is given savoury dish (6)
21 A bit of meat in the sideboard (6,4)
25 Painter illustrated part of poem about weird tale (9)
26 First parts of translation appeared out of order in a journal (5,5)
27 Potential threat of withdrawal from the Union? (10,10)
30 Prepare some eggs for the family? (7)
33 Strip to produce photos males finally want, in expanding business (6,11)
34 Modern guitarist has to cut hippie style of greeting (6)
36 Revive hybrid motor sport (5,5)
37 Indian warrior established procedure to trap one of the 60? (6)
39 I may take a stance on silly point (9)
40 Three consecutive letters quoted in two articles — one from Kabul (7)
41 Getting high on spirits? (10)
47 Often being out of work (11)
49 Maybe change golf club, given hint of future prosperity (6,5)
50 I'm prepared to take a chance (11)
51 Small quantity in one of the seventy-five bottles? (10)
52 Aquatic mammal in river — leave two to get re-established (5,4)
54 Where grass-seed should thrive in London? (9)
56 Delivering milk for the new arrivals (9)
59 Pagan god seen round wizard's home set up in island group (6)
61 A bit of a toff, too? (2,4)
62 Did love leave no room for the woman he abandoned? (6)
64 US explorers may have year submerged in lake (5)
66 Finally throw a fit — one's lost the scent! (4)



No 1192

ACROSS

1 Narrow squeak (5,5)
9 Generally; a garment (7)
10 Laughter (5)
11 Unit of molecule (4)
12 In no way; don't mention it (3,2,3)
14 Conspiracy of producers (6)
15 Brief rainfall; demonstrator? (6)
18 Of Iberian origin (8)
20 Small clue (4)
22 Go; permission (5)
23 Bird; game of dare (7)
24 (Drug) withdrawal symptoms (4,6)

DOWN

2 Incline; without fat (4)
3 Not often (6)
4 Fellow feeling (8)
5 Principal artery (5)
6 Raising the spirits (12)
7 Soft (drink) (3-9)
8 Greedily swallow (6)
13 Showing cultural decline (8)
16 Scotch (but not Irish) (6)
17 Grinder (6)
19 Little (5)
21 Contemptible, cheap (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1191

ACROSS: 1 Humorist 5 Deft 9 Part and parcel 10 Feat 11 Cutlass 13 Import 15 Crimea 18 Chortle 20 Soft 23 Procrastinate 24 Edgy 25 Embezzle

DOWN: 1 Hope 2 Merge 3 Reactor 4 Seduce 6 Exclaim 7 Talisman 8 Cant 12 Disciple 14 Prolong 16 Respite 17 Jetsam 19 Turf 21 Franz 22 Bede

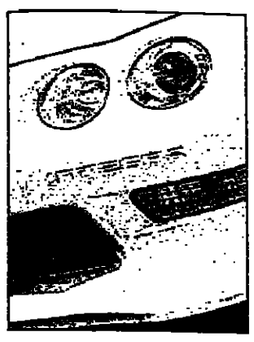
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Exotic imports set a scorching pace

Page 5

CAR 97

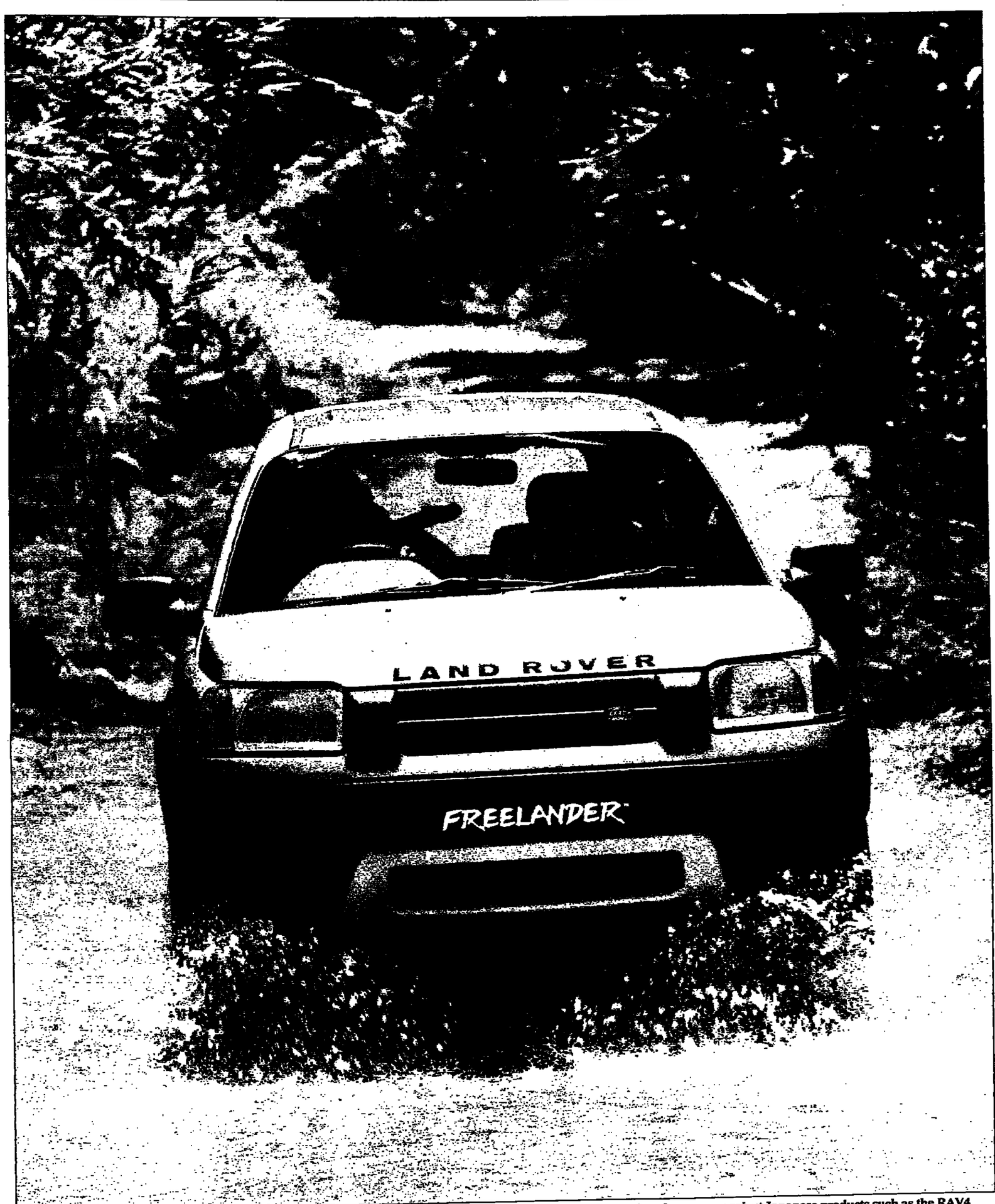
A flat way to mark Bibendum's centenary



Page 7

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1997

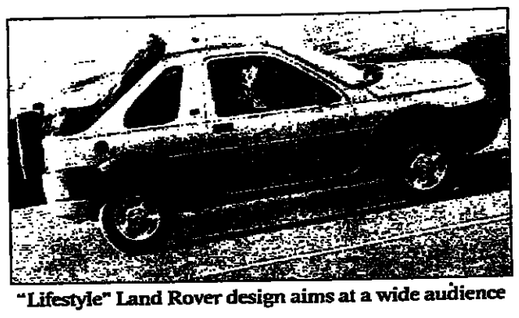
Freelander is set to become a marketing triumph, making the competition look twee, says **Kevin Eason**



First sight of the Freelander suggests Land Rover will once again set the benchmark for style, comfort and performance, against Japanese products such as the RAV4



Electronic braking system is used for hill clambering



"Lifestyle" Land Rover design aims at a wide audience



While body style is familiar, design is groundbreaking

Rover breaks new ground

It was at least worth the wait. Land Rover's new "baby" off-roader will be revealed for the first time next week — and already it looks like a winner.

Small, chunky and versatile, the Freelander is the vehicle Land Rover needed years ago to beat off the intrusion of Japanese manufacturers that captured the niche market for small 4x4 models. While Suzuki and Toyota cashed in on selling mutant Ninja 4x4s to a generation that wanted fun but not a stodgy Land Rover for grown-ups, corporate thumbs in Britain twiddled.

Perhaps Land Rover was just biding its collective time, because the four-year development of the Freelander has produced a vehicle that could prove to be yet another engineering marvel, as well as defining the style for the sector.

Land Rover is the master at rewriting the rules of the off-road market, and where it has gone the rest have been forced to follow. Just look at the Range Rover, which redefined not just the 4x4 but the luxury car market, and then the Discovery, which turned the school run into a procession that looks more like an Army task force.

Rest assured that Japanese engineers will be crawling all over the Land Rover stand when the Freelander is unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show in Germany on Tuesday. Overnight, their twee, and largely car-based, off-roaders will pale alongside the Tonka-toy styling of the Freelander, the sophistication of its cabin and its promised rough-tough performance off road.

Rarely will you see a Rover team so enthusiastic about a new product as this one. Like the MGF, they feel they have hit the sweet spot with the design and performance — now they just have to build it properly.

Reliability and Land Rover are not words that have appeared in the same sentence very often of late. But BMW, Rover's owner, has been through the Solihull factory with a fine-toothed comb and Freelander should be the first Land Rover product to get the full benefit of the Germans' legendary quality control.

The vehicle has also been designed to be easier to build than the ladder-framed chassis and bolt-on body-work of the Discovery, Defender and Range Rover. In fact, Freelander breaks with a bundle of traditions all at once: instead of ladder-frame, there is a one-piece body, as well as fully independent suspension replacing Land Rover's traditional twin live-axle approach.

Land Rover traditionalists will also discover there is no low-ratio gearbox for hill-clambering. Instead, a little yellow button on the five-speed manual gearlever activates an electronic braking system.

But Land Rover is not looking for traditionalists: Freelander will explore a whole new market of buyers who have never been able to afford — or wanted — to put a Land Rover on their wish-list.

With prices at between £16,000 and £20,000, the charismatic badge is within reach of a range of buyers, from young singles to mums who do the school run: from middle-aged managers who need a weekend car to carry the kids' bikes, to pensioners with the time to enjoy something with the solidity of a Discovery but the size of an estate car.

And they won't just be buying the vehicle, they will be buying into the lifestyle. Land Rover is to start selling the brand as well the vehicle: after you buy the Freelander, buy the sweatshirt, the cap, the shoes or the £1,500 mountain bike so gorgeous, it is worth saving up for on its own.

Peter Kinnaird, the commercial director masterminding this expansion into "lifestyle retailing", says Land Rover customers buy an average £500 worth of extras and accessories with their vehicle. He thinks that will double, as the familiar green and gold logo slips alongside Camel, Marlboro or Nike onto the outdoor wear stands in exclusive shops.

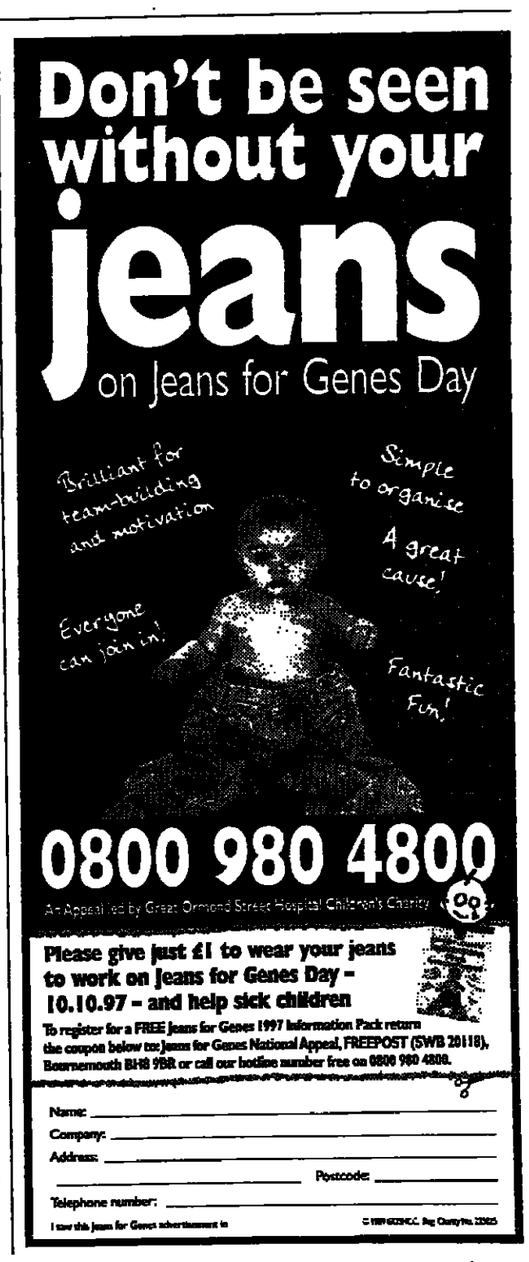
"We are defying all the usual marketing conventions because we think Freelander will appeal across a vast range of people," he says. "Defining a customer is impossible because they will be exchanging GTIs or estate cars for a vehicle which offers them a car-like driving experience on the road but the ruggedness and versatility of an off-roader."

From launch in January, Land Rover expects to sell about 20,000 Freelanders in Britain next year. But an American launch will be a must: full production is 60,000 — about the same as Discovery output — though Solihull could make an extra 15,000 or so vehicles annually if demand was big enough. They will be made alongside the thriving Discovery, the Range Rover — which accounts for about 30,000 vehicles a year — and the evergreen Defender, which Land Rover churns out at the rate of around 30,000 annually.

Freelander is pitched at big competition, notably Toyota's RAV4 and Suzuki's Vitara, but this first sight would suggest that the British entrant will once again set the benchmark for style, comfort and performance. The only drawback could be the issue of reliability, which scared off some American buyers and disgruntled many in this country.

The danger is that massive demand would encourage Land Rover to crank up the assembly lines at the expense of reliability. Not this time. I suspect: executives will be mollycoddling their new baby until they can gauge response — though there seems little doubt that if the factory can ensure reliability, buyers will flock to the green and gold badge.

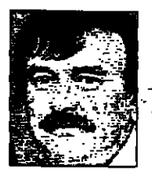
Smooth off-roader, Page 3



Agricultural vehicles should be selectively banned from clogging roads at harvest time as part of a package of small measures to cut congestion

Zero tolerance for farmer Giles

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

Great beasts of the field have been plaguing me of late, to the point where I begin to wonder if I have been too kind to them in the past. They are often red, these huge creatures, though some are yellow. Their colour is not the problem: the problem is one of dimension and speed.

I think it was last year, at harvest time, when an appeal went out to farmers to stop clogging the roads with their harvesters and tractors. I wrote at the time that this was an unreasonable demand, for there are a thousand causes of delay on the roads, and farmers going about their business are as legitimate as anyone else.

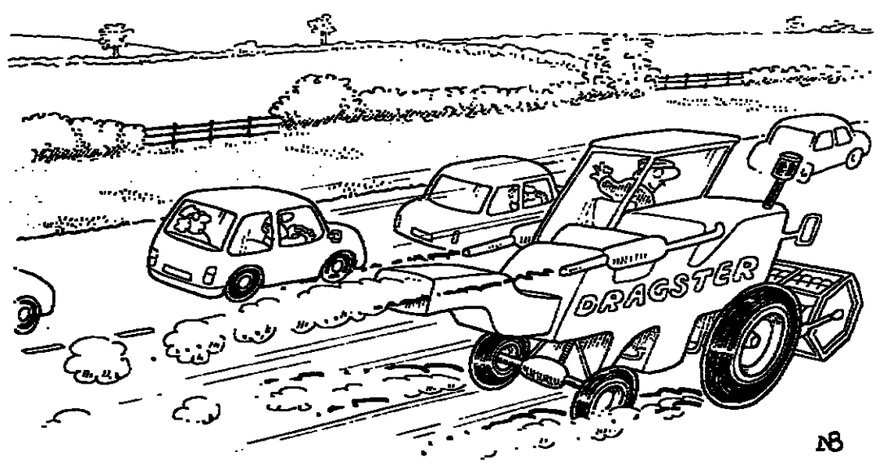
Quite a few people wrote to disagree, claiming that it was all very well for me. This was not the best point they could have made, for I live surrounded by fields that every year have to be harvested.

This year I have had to rethink my attitude, however. And in doing so I have had to carry out some more detailed research into the movements of farm machinery. The only possible conclusion is that many farmers either do not care about other road users or have never let the problem cross their minds.

One of the difficulties is that farmers tend to move their vehicles along roads during the two rush hours. This fact explodes the myth that farmers get up so early they have to wake the cockerel so that he can start crowing.

There may be some truth in this as applied to dairy farmers, who milk their cows at unearthly hours of the morning, but arable farms — the majority — are run more or less to office hours, except at harvest time when the work goes on into the late evening.

If I am right in noticing an increase in farm traffic on the roads this year, I can only think it has something to do with the way modern farming is carried out.



Many farmers bring in contractors to reap the harvest and, as said contractors are paid by results, they tend to move from one farm to the next whenever they are ready, rather than when said movement suits the rest of us.

A second factor appears to be that with so many small farmers in Britain going out of business, their farm land tends to be carved up among other local farmers, with the result that harvesters have to spend more time on the roads getting from one bit of farm to another.

These are subtle social factors that contribute to delays on the roads without offering any immediate solution. It would be possible to ban farm vehicles from A and B-roads during the rush hours. This need not cause much difficulty to farmers, provided they plan their workloads.

Of course any such move would cause a tremendous political row, but that is not a reason to abandon the idea. There was a tremendous row when France banned lorries from its roads at weekends, but the idea worked.

Anyone who drives regularly knows that a large part of the solution to traffic problems lies in small measures that offer aggregate gains. Cumbersome farm vehicles on main roads are only part of a big picture that includes everything from illegal parking to cyclists riding two abreast.

Zero tolerance is much in favour as a means of dealing with crime so perhaps with a little lateral thinking we can impose zero tolerance on traffic-flow problems. The sheer numbers of cars on the road may be a problem, but how big or small the problem is will not be apparent until we do something about the countless obstructions that slow traffic.

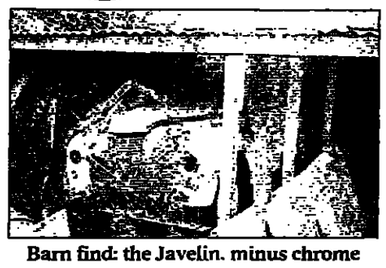
And not just physical obstructions. Local authorities often make life hard for themselves. Bath, one of the most visited cities in Europe, has recently been gnashing its teeth over traffic congestion, especially at weekends. Yet Bath insists on closing one of its park-and-ride locations every Saturday.

That is a classic example of the penny taking a long time to drop, and there are countless others. A few small ideas usually achieve more than one big idea.

College Javelin champion

Vaughan Freeman on a teenage restorer's rare find of a British saloon

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Barn find: the Javelin, minus chrome



Mark Torok and his 1949 Javelin, now awaiting a sympathetic restorer to step in

At 13-years of age most schoolboys collect stamps and football programmes, but Mark Torok was acquiring his first classic car, an MGB GT. Now, aged 18, he has scored a major coup by finding an original classic in a barn.

When Mark offered to help a neighbour clear a derelict barn he had no idea of the treasure that lay inside, but as three decades of farm equipment, tools, household debris and brambles was removed, he recognised the shape of a Jowett Javelin in a corner.

The neighbour, who had driven the car into the barn 27 years ago and promptly forgotten all about it, agreed to sell the somewhat shabby Javelin to Mark, and it has now taken pride of place alongside his brace of Daimler Conquest Centuries, Austin 1300 and his daily transport, a venerable Land Rover.

His find is all the more remarkable since the very first Javelin was launched exactly 50 years ago and this year fans of the car have been celebrating the anniversary.

The Jowett Javelin, designed by Gerald Palmer, was one of the first genuinely new postwar cars capable of seating four in comfort and taking them to 80mph, at a time when most car owners dreamed of reaching 60mph.

Technologically advanced for its age, its aerodynamic tear-shaped rear hid torsion bar springs. There was rack-and-pinion steering and its flat-four 1486cc engine, if somewhat unreliable, left most competitors struggling to keep up.

Mark, who lives in the Kent village of Westmarsh and is studying business and languages at college in nearby Canterbury, was delighted that his Javelin turned out to be one of the few pre-1950 cars remaining. Supplied new in July 1949 by George Fitt Motors in Whitstable, it spent most of its life in the Folkestone area before being driven into the barn in 1970.

Mark says: "The car was covered in 27-years' worth of dust and brambles, and the headlamps and bumpers were missing. When I cleaned the dirt off the windows, though, I saw that the chromework was sitting on the seats.

"The key was still in the ignition and the logbook and the service guide were in it too." Mark had it towed home by tractor, where he has started work cleaning it up.

"The early Javelins were let down by mechanical failures including crankshaft breakages and gearbox problems, which is why most of the 500 or 600 surviving cars are post-1950 models.

He adds: "At some point my car was fitted with a reconditioned engine and the oval crankshaft from the more proven, later Javelins. It also has the metal dashboard of the earlier pre-1950 cars and the chrome grille that hinges downwards to give excellent access to the engine."

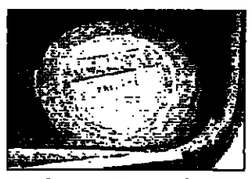
Mark's car has covered just over 40,000 miles and is recorded as the 3,874th out of the Javelin's total production run of 23,600, around half of which were exported. For Mark it is another car that he delights in having saved from the scrapyard: "When I was 13, before I was old enough to drive, I had an MGB GT.

"I saved a 1962 Cadillac Coupe de Ville that had been sitting on somebody's drive for ten years and which still had the original New Jersey tax plates on it, and I also found a Rover SDI. The Javelin is special though. It deserves better than a barn."

Having got the car, Mark now hopes to find somebody with the time, expertise and the money to do a full restoration: "I have to get on with my studies and simply do not have the time to do it."

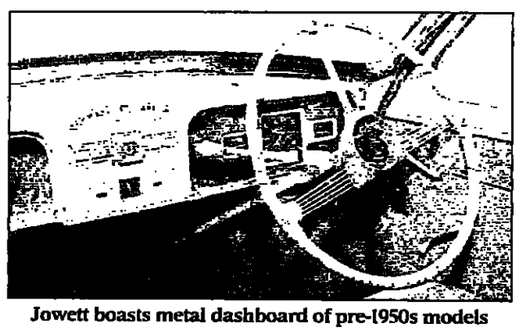
Even so, restoring a car like a Javelin is likely to be more a labour of love, repaid by pride of ownership, than providing any owner with an instant fortune.

Classic car trader Peter Rodgers, of Huddersfield, specialises in the marque and says even in near-perfect condition, a Javelin is unlikely to fetch more than £5,000.

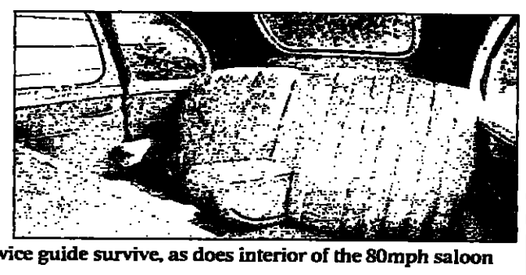


Car last saw Tarmac in 1970





Jowett boasts metal dashboard of pre-1950s models



Original logbook and service guide survive, as does interior of the 80mph saloon

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
Central London and major routes in: *avoid if at all* possible on Saturday, due to the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.
A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.
A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.
A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Roadworks between Vallance Road and Cambridge Heath Road.
A312 Faggs Road, Feltham. Carriageway reduced to one lane each way due to long-term bridge maintenance at Faggs Bridge, north of Staines Road, between 6am and 5pm.
A2 Old Kent Road, New Cross, closed restrictions at various times.
A237 Manor Road, Wallington, single alternate traffic at the junction with Melbourne Road.

● **SOUTH-EAST**
A34 Berkshire. Contraflow and narrow lanes with 40mph limit between M4 junction 13 and Newbury.
A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).
A12 Feering. Roadworks on Ipswich-bound lanes.
A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead.
M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.
A20 Ashford. Temporary lights on Maidstone Road.
A248 Chilworth. Roadworks may cause local delays.
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

● **SOUTH-WEST**
A38 Old Bedminster Bridge, Bedminster. Major roadworks with lane closures on Bedminster roundabout.
M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth bridge with 50mph limit.
A390 Cornwall. Lane restrictions in centre of Truro at the Trafalgar roundabout.
A354 Puddletown. Temporary Lights on Blandford Road.
A417 Malsemore Bridge, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.
A37 Shepton Mallet. Roadworks with lane closures on all approaches at junction with A361.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
B1352 Harwich. Main road has temporary lights for cabling work. Expect local delays.
A1 between Alconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with *lane closures, contraflow* and 50mph limit.
A38 South Normanton. Major long-term works.
A134 Stradsett, Norfolk, roadworks at A122 junction.
A11 between Besthorpe and Wymondham. Lane closures in both directions.
A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road.
A6 Leicestershire. Roadworks between M1 junction 24 and Sawley island.
A50 Stoke on Trent: major roadworks in the Meir area at junction with A520.
M6 junction 6 Birmingham. Long-term roadworks. Northbound entry slip to M6 North closed at Salford Circus. Diversions in place.
A41 Wolverhampton. Major works near Cooper Street.

● **NORTH**
A69 Cumbria. Temporary lights on Warwick Road, Carlisle with long delays, especially inbound from M6.
A19 Cold Hesledon, near Murton. Roadworks with southbound carriageway down to one lane.
M61 Westhoughton. Lane closures on both carriage ways at Junction 6.
A19 between Thornaby on Tees and Billingham. Major roadworks, lane closures and speed restrictions.
A65 between Skipton and Settle at Coniston Cold, North Yorkshire. Temporary lights following bridge damage.
M1 South Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks with 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays on M1, M621 and A653.
A134 Tyne and Wear. Contraflow on Felling bypass.
M1 West Yorkshire, junctions 43 to 42 Stourton to Lofthouse junction. Contraflow and 50mph limit.
A554 between Wallasey and Birkenhead. Four Bridges Road closed.
M62 West Yorkshire. Contraflow and 50mph limit, junctions 28 to 29.

● **WALES**
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tenerdy.
A449 Monmouthsire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport.
A472 Torfaen. Contraflow at Pontypool.
A483 Swansea. Major roadworks between Elba Crescent and the Vale of Neath road.

● **SCOTLAND**
M8 Edinburgh. Major roadworks at junction 2. Delays on M9, M8 and A8 approaches.
M90 Perth and Kinross. Lane closures between junctions 4 and 7.
M74 Lesmahagow. Inside lane closed southbound.

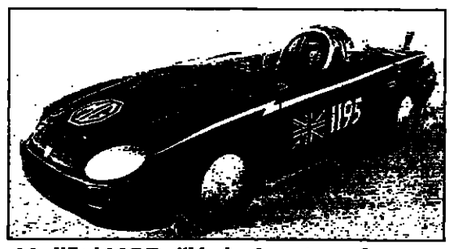
Rover is attempting to beat the speed set by Stirling Moss at Bonneville

MGF reaches 217mph

■ JUST HOW fast can an MGF go? A specially prepared version of the two-seater sportscar was driven at 217.4mph during Speedweek on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah last month.

The run marked the 40th anniversary of Stirling Moss's 245.64mph land-speed record for Class F (1100-1500cc) cars, set on the same course in the MGA-powered EX181. The MGF team plans to return next year to exceed that record.

The car, using a turbocharged 329bhp engine, was prepared at Rover Group's Gaydon Design and Engineering centre under the leadership of Nick Stephenson, Group Design and Engineering Director. It was driven by Californian Terry Kilbourne.



Modified MGF will be back next year for more

THRUST TEAM SET FOR RECORD

■ THE RACE to the sound barrier is on. Any day now, Britain's land-speed record contender, Thrust SSC, will start its runs across the Black Rock desert in Nevada in a head-to-head with American Craig Breedlove's Spirit of America.

Driven by RAF Tornado pilot Andy Green, the giant twin-jet car will be competing with its lightweight American rival to be first to travel at supersonic speeds on land, and in the process beat the 633.468mph land-speed record held since 1983 by Thrust project director Richard Noble.

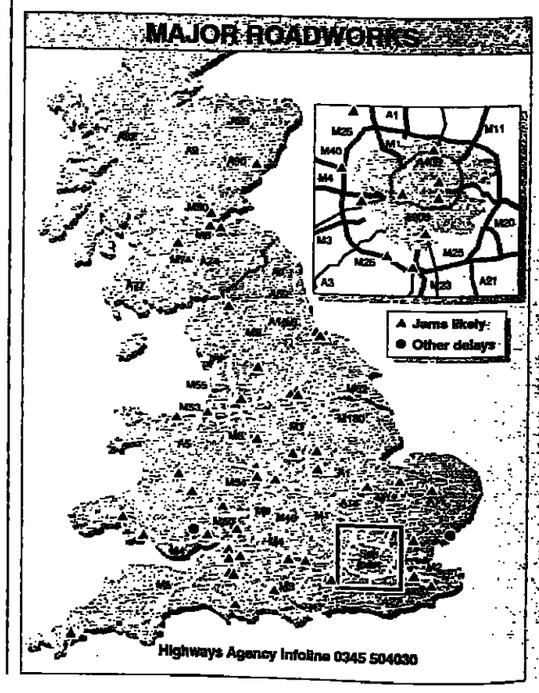
The car and team flew to Nevada in a giant Antonov freighter aircraft earlier this week, even though Noble admits that funding for a full month of high-speed runs is only 65 per cent complete. He is confident that a good early showing will bring in extra cash.

Thrust SSC is powered by two Rolls-Royce Spey engines from the Phantom Fighter, each producing power equivalent to 1,000 Ford Escorts — 25,000lbs of thrust. It reaches 100mph in 4 seconds and is said to be capable of 850mph, 100mph more than the-sound barrier. In tests in Jordan earlier this year Thrust reached well over 500mph. It will have to cover the 14-mile track in just 46 seconds to break the record.



Thrust: flown to America

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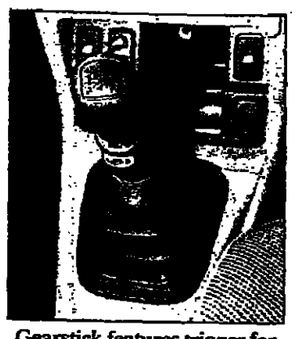


Freelander's delight is in its attention to design detail — but it is still a true off-roader, says **Kevin Eason**

Smoothie can take the rough



Cabin's front-seat powerpoint enables driver and passenger to charge up their lifestyles



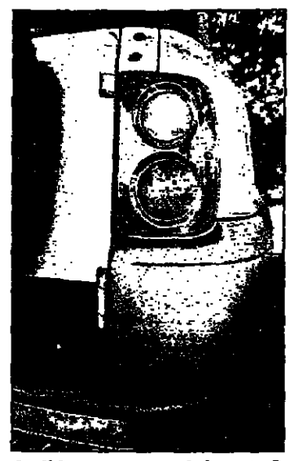
Gearstick features trigger for switching to the patented Hill Descent Control gear system



Freelander comes in three bodystyles, including five-door station wagon and three-door softback, both shown above. On the softback, the hood furls forward to a roll bar while there are twin targa style removable sunroofs above the front seats. All this converts a 4x4 into a rugged convertible



Clear, ergonomic dashboard features twin gloveboxes and a good deal of storage space



Tail lamps are reminiscent of the venerable old Defender's single vertical cluster of lights

You barely notice at first glance, a simple elasticated plastic bar low down on the door. Everybody puts a cup-holder in their new models these days, seemingly as vital a piece of equipment as the engine when the emphasis is on lifestyle and leisure.

In the Freelander, it is not just a cupholder: the designers realised that cups come in all shapes and sizes, soft-drink cans and bottles of water are as varied in their styling as cars. So Freelander got something more versatile.

Detail, you see. Freelander is covered in detail, the sort of tiny things which separate satisfaction from irritation, which mean that drivers of the latest Land Rover will feel at home in their vehicles.

Designers and engineers sat down together from day one knowing that the Freelander had to be different. Inevitably, the Japanese had already swamped the niche market for small off-roaders and you can barely cross a city street without sight of a trendy Toyota RAV4 or a garish Suzuki Vitara.

While Land Rover's stylists looked for the shape, the engineers looked deep into the detail that



No mere cup-holder for the Freelander: elastic bar takes all sizes of drinks containers

would separate Freelander from the rest.

Clamber around the cockpit and their work is evident, the dashboard clear and ergonomic with twin gloveboxes among lots of storage space. There is plenty of headroom and a full three seats in the rear — all with three-point belts. There is an electrical power point between the front seats so driver or passenger can get at it freely (and the option of one in the boot too).

The boot is adequate rather than gigantic but again, Rover's designers have shown their ingenuity. The rear window drops down electronically, operated by the remote "plip" key, so that drivers laden with groceries can load up without opening the side-hinged back door, simply reaching through the window opening.

Geoff Upex, Rover's design and concept director, walked me around the Freelander to describe the styling cues aimed to make the vehicle uniquely Land Rover yet give the company a new face.

The bonnet, for example, is a "clam shell" shape, familiar from the Range Rover, which allows the Freelander to revel in its heritage. The "kick" in the roof of the five-door is clearly a cue from the Discovery while the round tail lamps are reminiscent of the venerable Defender's single-file, vertical cluster of lights.

But Freelander establishes its identity with a new face, a wide grille and set-apart eyes of large, rectangular wraparound headlamps — and those big, grey bumpers that many buyers will either love or hate.

"When you have a history as long as Land Rover's, you are faced with a series of challenges you must overcome with a new vehicle," says Upex. "You don't want to break the mould but you can't keep repeating history because it will not work.

"That's why we gave the Freelander strong shoulders and a straight bodyline. We wanted the bumpers in that solid colour block to make the vehicle look tough. We didn't want it to look like a car. Most of the competition are car-derived products and look it, so we wanted Freelander to show its distinctive design heritage."

Freelander is launched with three body styles, a full five-door station wagon and two three-door versions, one a softback and the other with a hardback, which unclips and lifts off in a few seconds turning the Freelander from a station wagon to a pick-up.

In the softback, the hood furls forward to a roll bar while there are twin, targa-style removable sunroofs above the front seats. All this converts a 4x4 into a rugged convertible. Somehow the trio all look very different, although Land Rover's engineering team says that structure and panels are largely the same right up to the B-pillar.

But how will it go off-road? Steve Haywood, chief engineer on the Freelander project, just grins if you ask him.

"When we showed Freelander to the BMW board, they were amazed how well it coped off road," he says. "We know that the people who buy vehicles like this will probably never drive in a field or desert sand or anything worse than heavy rain. But this is a Land Rover and people expect Land Rovers to be able to go anywhere and to do it better than everybody else."

Power comes from Rover's familiar K-series 1.8-litre petrol engine — worth 118 brake horse power — as well as the company's 2-litre direct-injection diesel, which gives a torquey 96bhp, both powerful enough to push a vehicle much smaller than a Discovery through the mud.

But drivers unfamiliar with off-roading might be daunted by those push-me-pull-you low-ratio gearboxes which burden the serious 4x4 machines. On Freelander, you get a yellow, Nintendo-style trigger on the gearstick which operates Land Rover's patented Hill Descent Control system, a clever piece of lateral thinking.

Put Freelander on a sticky, steep descent and engage HDC with the throttle closed and the system selects first gear and uses the anti-lock brakes to maintain a descent speed of 5.6mph: if the track gets slippier or undulates, it reduces descent to 4.4mph.

Get it all wrong and ding a side panel and there is no need to worry, for Freelander also uses a material new to cars, called Noryl GTX, designed to pop back instead of denting. Haywood was confident it worked anyway, bouncing on a panel to show how robust it was. The Noryl panels can be painted or filled just like aluminium and simply bolt on for ease of repair.

Which, along with fuel consumption at 27.6 miles to the gallon combined for petrol versions and 36.6 for the diesel, will help make Freelander the cheapest 4x4 to run. We shall see.

The Rover makeover



Rover designer Gerry McGovern with the company's new baby: "We have taken enormous trouble to find a shape and style that will last and be distinctive"

Familiar design tradition mixes with lasting new looks

WHEN YOU design a Land Rover, you are handed the baggage of almost 50 years of history and a familiarity of shape and style that car buyers cling on to like a family heirloom.

Gerry McGovern, Rover's chief designer, had already tackled — and beaten — that problem when he produced the MGF. Now the Freelander is the latest vehicle to escape the clutches of history and move on a generation with some radical styling allied to cues taken from Land Rover's heritage. McGovern insists that Freelander could not follow the Japanese competition and early sketches show the way the vehicle evolved as the design team moved from ultra-radical to chic.

"You see a Japanese 4x4 and it is very trendy but the styling dates very quickly," he says. "We cannot afford to be like that so we have taken enormous trouble to find a shape and style that will last and be distinctive."

Being distinctive enough to be instantly recognisable is a hallmark of all Land Rovers. And Freelander is: as McGovern and I squinted into the sunshine at two Freelanders being photographed, there was no mistaking Land Rover's new baby.

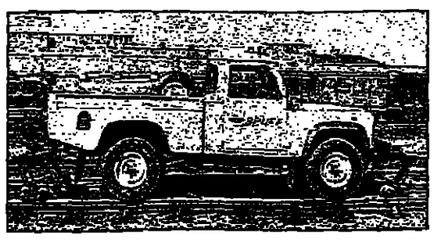


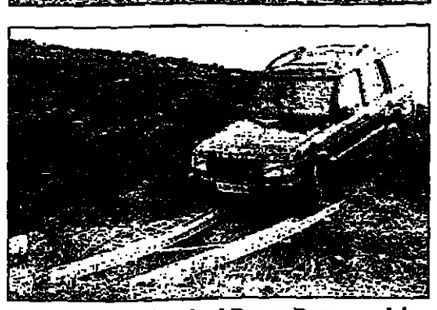




From cheap Jeep to top trend







First basic Land Rover, left spawned myriad variants such as, top right, this "Rail Rover", and the inspired Range Rover model

THE IDEA was born down on the farm as Maurice Wilks bounced over his fields in an ex-US Army Willys Jeep.

Maurice was chairman of a postwar Rover company under pressure to build cars for export to revive Britain's struggling economy. But there was a desperate steel shortage for making conventionally designed cars on traditional assembly lines.

With his brother Spencer, Rover's chief engineer, Maurice decided to make a British jeep — only better — with a unique ladder-frame chassis with the body bolted on for simple construction. Aluminium replaced steel but offered lightness and durability.

Mindful of the need to sell overseas but keep costs down, the first prototypes had the steering wheel positioned in the middle of the cabin while there were no doors: this was basic motoring in the extreme but the Wilks brothers had in mind a vehicle that could tough it out on any terrain anywhere in the world.

Life has been no smooth road for this famous name

They were proved right, for it was an immediate success when it was launched in 1948. At one time, Land Rovers were built in 30 countries from kits supplied by the factory at Solihull in the West Midlands, and in 40 years more than 1.6 million Land Rovers had been made.

There was a stroke of design genius to come in the shape of the Range Rover in 1970 which took the 4x4 off the farm and put it into cities as the most fashionable verhicle to be seen in. It still is.

But the rot was setting in by the mid-1980s. Hugely inefficient factories turning out just two rapidly dating models under attack from cheaper, more reliable Japanese rivals had put the company in severe trouble.

There was one piece of genius locked in Solihull's vaults though: the Discovery. When it was launched in 1989, production was below 50,000 vehicles a year; ten years on, output from Solihull is almost 130,000 a year and Land Rover is the most profitable jewel in the Rover crown, envied by carmakers the world over.

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Nissan's flagship musclecar is bound to go fast, says **Ian Morton**, as only 100 of them are being imported into Britain



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Skyline — it's the limit

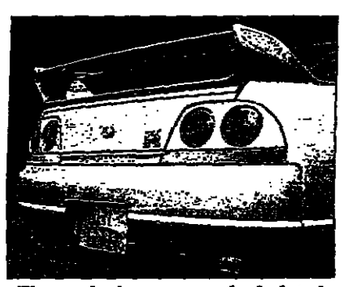
At 2 o'clock one January morning this year, a new record was set on the streets of Tokyo when police clocked a car at 195mph. The speed merchant, with his wife at his side, was driving a Nissan Skyline GT-R. The policemen who caught them were driving another.

Just 100 examples of the Skyline GT-R are now to be made available to British enthusiasts at exactly £50,000 apiece. The nation's police wil be relieved to know that the imported version will not be tuned to the 400bhp that allowed the Tokyo tearaway to approach the double-ton. The UK car will brew a mere 280bhp and 155mph.

But the January incident tells us a lot about the structure, chassis and engine of the GT-R. They add up to a dynamically superb package. The road car is based on the country's most successful production racer — 200 wins since the model was originally launched, including five national championships and a Spa 24 Hours.

It does not look exceptional. Its plain lines, aero skirts and fins-and wing rear give it the decidedly dated appearance of an Eighties musclecar. The interior, though roomy for two and adequate for four, is even less impressive, with a handy but mundane control area and materials of minimal quality. But despite the lack of show, the GT-R is Nissan's new flagship.

It will be exclusive, with no adverts, but promotion through asociation with fashionable men's clothes designer Ozwald Boateng, and will be available only through one dealer, Middlehurst of St Helen's, Lancs.



Fins and wings on rear look dated

When Nissan made noises about importing the car earlier this year they had 550 enquiries of which 350 are judged "hot prospects", and ten deposits have been taken with the car unseen. It goes on sale in November and Nissan expects the lot to have gone by June. So why only 100? That is the most allowed without expensive modifications to meet UK type-approval regulations.

Not that the GT-R's spec is lacking in real terms. The 2.6-litre 24-valve straight-six engine with twin turbochargers is sweet, and eager to hit its full 8,000rpm. Do so in first gear and see 0-30mph in around two seconds. Click second and break our legal speed limit, logging 0-60mph in under 5.5 seconds on the way.

The whole pell-mell process is near-seamless and accompanied by a purposeful baritone blare that booms through the roar of broad treads on Tarmac.

The faster the GT-R goes, the more secure it feels. The weighty steering sets itself into the dead-ahead position and the car will run hands-off down the straight, yet the high-ratio rack makes it elastically responsive and accurate in the turns.

In the wet I did detect a front-end twitch or two under severe use of the mighty all-ABS brakes and some rear-end jinks when accelerating hard, but deviation was momentary. The GT-R boasts a drive train which feeds the rear wheels in normal service but can transfer up to 50 per cent of traction to the front within one-hundredth of a second when its computer detects wheelspin. In addition a limited-slip differential balances the rear wheels.

Take sharp avoiding action or jerk the car into another traffic lane, and while loose items fly across the interior and occupants get a jolt, the car simply steps sideways. This ability comes courtesy of a third-generation Nissan version of the brilliant Porsch Weissach axle in which rubber mountings allow the rear wheels to turn by up to half a degree in sympathy with the front, giving a four-wheel steering effect.

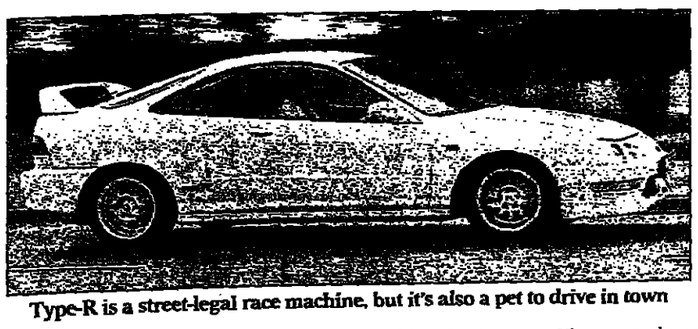
There are far too many shocks and shivers in town, however, and plenty of reminders on the open road as well.

There again, as the pace quickens and the aerodynamics flatten the car against the road, the road itself sems to smooth out. No car at this price reaches a better high-speed understanding with the highway. Probably that was why that chap in Tokyo was blasting his GT-R through the streets at 195 mph. He was concerned for his wife's comfort.

NISSAN SKYLINE GT-R

Engine: 2.6-litre, 24-valve in-line six-cylinder giving 280bhp through five-speed manual gearbox.
Performance: 0 to 60mph in 5.3 seconds, 0 to 100mph in 13.8 seconds, top speed 155mph.
Equipment: four-wheel ABS, power steering with tilt adjustment, air-conditioning, electric front windows, twin airbags, central locking, four-speaker stereo.
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Motorbike fun in a car



Type-R is a street-legal race machine, but it's also a pet to drive in town

Paying £25,000 for a car that does not even have a radio might sound a duff investment, but for those who care more for motoring fun than news bulletins, Honda's race-bred Integra Type-R is set to become an instant sporting classic, *Vaughan Freeman writes.*

The lack of radio saves around half a kilo, and even the windscreen uses thinner glass to save weight in a car that is vicious when unleashed but a pet in traffic. The Type-R is a street-legal race machine, a fitting product of Honda's motorsport heritage.

In a motoring world where less equals more, Honda has invested in the Type-R the sort of engineering and technological know-how more usually found in Formula One.

The Type-R will sell only in small numbers but Honda hopes its mere presence will help revolutionise the carmaker's image. The car comes only in white, harking back to Honda's original Formula One livery, and on hand to launch its first outing at the Silverstone grand prix circuit was Honda's British Touring Car pilot Gabriele Tarquini.

Tarquini's Type-R was identical to the car that will go on sale in January, except for slick race tyres, a fire extinguisher and a roll cage. His mission was to beat the Silverstone track record for Group N production saloons. Tarquini roared out of the pit lane and was back one minute and 36 seconds later, having knocked an impressive five seconds off the record.

At the hands of somebody less accomplished, the engine below 4,000rpm is flexible, and the car is easy to use. Even the ride is less harsh than you might expect given the lowered and stiffened suspension. It is noisy though, since so much insulation has been stripped out to save weight.

The car truly comes alive when the gearlever is worked hard and the revs soar above 7,000rpm, which is where the Type-R repays the driver tenfold, leaping into action as the power surges in. Acceleration is outstanding, handling and roadholding commendable.

Key engine parts have been polished by hand, the exhaust widened to cope with increased gas flow, lightweight valves are used as are low-friction pistons.

One question remains. Why? Honda spokesman Paul Ormond says: "Honda is trying to come of age in Europe. We have a factory here in Britain turning out 100,000 cars a year and it is not enough just to push those cars through the market in a conventional way. The Integra Type-R is part of our programme to create desire and to reach new audiences.

"It is hard to change the Honda driver image here of elderly motorists in Bournemouth, much as we value those customers and intend to keep them.

"We want to surprise people with a car they would not expect to see with a Honda badge on it."

Stephen Hollings, Honda manager for product planning says: "We are looking at customers who want a motorbike with four wheels. We asked ourselves what Honda Fireblade motorbike owners do in the winter when they don't want to ride.

"The answer is the Type-R, a car for the enthusiast, somebody who can appreciate its excellent roadholding and the capabilities."

One possibility being considered by Honda is to offer the Type-R and the 170mph Fireblade as part of the same very rapid roadgoing package; then the driver-biker can steer clear of radios all the time.

INTEGRA TYPE-R

Engine: 1.8-litre V10, producing 190bhp through five-speed manual gearbox with uprated racing clutch.
Performance: Top speed 145mph, 0-62mph in 6.7 seconds.
Special equipment: ABS, super-large disc brakes, aluminium race wheels and exhaust, hand-polished engine inlet ports.
Price: Around £25,000.

Import experts' exotic offers

TO SCORE big points in the car-snob stakes, your shiny set of new wheels must not only be exotic, but rare, and preferably only on sale abroad — the further abroad the better, *writes Vaughan Freeman.*

Specialist importers have long known the value of offering for sale cars not sold through official channels. The allure of such cars to the motoring purist is akin to offering a rare vintage to wine lovers.

Until now the Honda Integra-R and the Nissan Skyline have been just such cars, officially unavailable in the UK except to those with the desire and the contacts to find one abroad and bring it home.

There are also more mundane but equally compelling reasons to buy less exotic specialist imports — bringing them in through a specialist dealer can save money and time.

Paul Lenas of Eurolink has long imported Hondas, Subarus, BMWs and Porsches, as well as Jaguar and Land Rover exports which then make their way "home" via Eurolink.

Typical of the more outrageous machines that Eurolink brings in is the 155mph Subaru WRX STi, a 300bhp brute that will go from 0-60mph in four seconds.

The beauty of importing cars from Japan is that like us, the Japanese drive on the left with the steering wheel on the right. Another Eurolink import is the rare Lexus Coupé as well as automatic versions of the Maxda MX-5 two-door sports car, sold here only as a manual, available from £9,000 upwards.

For those not prepared to wait 18 months to get their £35,000 Porsche Boxster from an authorised dealership, Lenas says he can supply one in around four months for roughly the same money.

British cars like the Jaguar XK8, which also have a long waiting list, are available, as too are cars like the Land Rover Discovery off-roader, though for around £5,000 under the UK price.

Even modest family runabouts like the four-door Honda Civic are available, and Eurolink supplies them for £9,000. That is a significant saving over the UK price although, says Lenas, part of that saving is reflected in the fact that the cars direct from Japan do not carry as much equipment as the British versions.

> 'The price of the car includes a trip to Cyprus to finalise the legal papers'

The catch for such customers is that they must take delivery or sign the paperwork for the vehicle outside the UK, and wade through VAT and Customs and Excise forms: "We arrange all the paperwork," says Lenas.

Many of the cars that Eurolink arranges to import arrive via Cyprus, and the car's price includes a three or four-day trip to the island to finalise the paperwork. Many customers who take delivery elsewhere, such as Antwerp or Rotterdam, drive the car home.

WHILE HONDA and Nissan have spotted the potential market for limited-edition cars, Lenas believes his Integra-R contacts will enable him to cut waiting lists for impatient customers, and that he will always be able to help supply cars for the motorist who simply has to drive something that little bit different.

● *Eurolink: 01923 227122*

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

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Tomorrow's Italian Grand Prix is the 13th race in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition. Heading our leaderboard after the Belgian GP is R Davis from Barnes, London. His team, Dragon Racing, has 8,851 points after scoring 950 points, including 300 bonus points, at the Belgian Grand Prix.

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THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the most points in the Italian Grand Prix will win a trip for two to next year's British Grand Prix. The runner-up gets a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the Austrian Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday, September 18. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three drivers you select will be your prediction for the Luxembourg Grand Prix bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position on our leaderboard after the Italian Grand Prix on 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN number. Lines will open on Wednesday.



OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE BELGIAN GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Dragon Racing	R Davis	8851
2	Aston O	L Ackland	8689
3	Gwilt F1	D Gwilt	8583
4	Coolsport	D Coolican	8579
5	The Tigglers	—	8526
5	Cathy's Clowns	Mrs C Robinson	8526
5	Bezzotti Racing	A Scott	8526
5	Smith-Astra	D Smith	8526
5	F1 Erb	S Erhorn	8526
10	Parkhurst Racing	L Danson	8517
11	Slickhead 3	A Bradley	8512
12	Scuderia Vitulli	Mr Vitulli	8472
13	Cartell Racing	S Dimetto	8461
14	Scuderia Vincitore	S Lorenti	8450
15	Dow Jones 2	I Dowty	8438
16	Will And Nerve	A Mewes	8436
17	Sour Mash	R Owers	8426
18	Formula Uno	P Tabone	8423
19	What Alesi Bunch!	N Rowe	8422
20	Beck's Racing Team	M Kingdon	8421
21	Tom's Tankers	T Reynolds	8420
22	The Mixes	I Keran	8410
23	Rude F 1 Engineering	R Dodoo	8406
23	Midnight Ravers	C Newman	8406

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The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Belgian GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS GROUP A					
01 D Hill	70	822	07 M Hakkinen	112	982
02 M Schumacher	134	1468	08 D Coulthard	26	898
03 J Villeneuve	112	1206	09 R Barrichello	13	534
04 E Irvine	84	1063	10 H-H Frentzen	103	1001
05 J Alesi	94	1302	11 J Herbert	107	1013
06 G Berger	107	1028	12 M Salo	94	983

DRIVERS GROUP B					
13 J Trulli*	63	1307	19 G Fisichella	123	1116
14 J Verstappen	15	788	20 S Nakano	6	841
15 U Katayama	73	737	21 G Morbidelli*	91	1031
16 P Diniz	89	619	22 T Marques*	8	734
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	88	603
18 R Schumacher	22	831	24 V Sospiri	0	0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C			CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D		
25 Williams	23	150	31 Arrows	9	-25
26 Ferrari	20	208	32 Sauber	22	134
27 McLaren	14	108	33 Tyrrell	5	5
28 Benetton	20	224	34 Minardi	-8	28
29 Jordan	5	111	35 Stewart	4	-115
30 Prost	-9	125	36 Lola	0	0

*Jamo Trulli of Minardi replaces Olivier Panis in the Prost team. Tarso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontana

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Idea that runs flat

Get-you-home tyres are not new, but this one could work, says **Stuart Birch**

Next year, Michelin will launch a new, get-you-home, or to that vital business meeting, run-flat tyre. And it won't matter if your home or meeting is 125 miles away.

The danger of a mother and children being marooned by a puncture on a motorway or in some lonely rural spot, could be no more: the Michelin PAV should carry on rolling and save the day. Not only that, but the PAV (*Pneu Accrochage Vertical* — vertically anchored tyre) will use new technology to provide enhanced handling, lower rolling resistance to improve fuel consumption, and performance suitable for most road surfaces across the world.



PAV fits over the rim

But it is its run-flat capability that will distinguish it from being just another grippy tyre. The problem for Michelin, though, lies in pumping up the PAV's credibility. Until now, run-flat, or "extended mobility" tyres in Europe have been a bit of a let-down. In the 1960s, Dunlop tried with the Denovo and in the 1980s Michelin and Dunlop worked together on a system. Neither was the success it might have been for a variety of technical and marketing reasons.

The PAV, though, would almost remove the need for a spare tyre. Almost, because if a tyre was seriously damaged, such as when striking a kerb, it might be unusable. But with that caveat aside, the PAV has great promise.

Although still under development, by late next year there will be "special programmes" for PAV, says Michelin and it is expected to be offered on a limited basis by some car manufacturers on niche models. However, it may be several years before it is widely available and only then if it has convincingly proved its worth.

When Michelin started the PAV tyre programme it had to do so in association with wheel technology. The wall of a conventional tyre comprises two zones, upper and lower. The upper looks after the handling and comfort, the lower attaches to the wheel rim and does not contribute to performance.

A conventional tyre is held against the rim by the air pressure applied inside the tyre. But the PAV changes that: it uses a mechanical locking principle. The tyre is latched to the rim and the loads on the tyre simply make that latch tighter. Unlike a conventional tyre, the lower part of the PAV fits over the wheel rim instead of tucking inside.

That unhelpful lower half then suffers few loads, and tyre performance is significantly enhanced, says Michelin. The tyre shape is also altered, providing better handling and grip and there is ample room inside the tyre for a rubber support ring: it is this which gives run-flat capability.

In theory it all sounds great technology news. But automotive engineering and design is about compromise, and at present the run-flat PAV weighs about 6kg more than a conventional tyre although that is likely to be reduced because added weight affects ride comfort. It may also be relatively expensive. So motor manufacturers may be cautious.

Michelin's long term hope is that the system will become widely acceptable for a variety of vehicles. The company demonstrated its potential at a tortuous test track in North Carolina, using Honda Accords fitted with the PAV.

It was highly competent on dry sections but sent some vibration into the car. In the wet, however, the PAV had superior grip to conventional tyres and an ability to cope with rapid course changes and hard cornering on a very slippery surface through a hairpin bend and a slalom.

Next came a test with one PAV deflated on a dry section of track which also included a demanding slalom. Under such arduous conditions there was some steering pull and added noise but no real drama and, thanks to its mechanical locking system and the tyre-over-rim design, no hint of the tyre detaching from the rim.



First poster of Bib, the Michelin Man, from 1898. "Now is the time to drink," he declares, ready to quaff his nails and broken glass

Tyred and emotive

Stuart Birch on Bib's centenary

MICHELIN HAS pioneered advanced technology many times, and next year is totally appropriate for the launch of the PAV. It marks the 50th anniversary of the "X", the world's first production radial.

It is also the 100th anniversary of the multi-layered Michelin Man, the company's international symbol. But how he will be shown with a run-flat capability may prove to be a challenge almost as tough as creating the PAV.

Michelin is preparing for a birthday party next year for the character who is still part of the company's advertising.



1914 Russian advertisement

He was born soon after Edouard Michelin, looking at a stack of tyres in 1898, thought they resembled a man. He told his brother André: "All that is needed is a pair of arms." André commissioned an artist to come up with some designs on the theme — and Michelin Man was created.

One of the drawings showed him as a rotund beer drinker, raising his glass and declaring "Nunc est Bibendum" (Now is the time to drink). The character quickly became known as "Bib" and the beer glass was replaced by a goblet filled with nails and broken glass.

During the past 99 years, Bib has appeared in many guises — and he has also changed shape: the number of layers has reduced but each is far broader, indicating that modern tyres have grown massively in width from the skinny tubes of the earliest days of motoring.

CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

Space Shuttle lands at lower price

ROADTEST

The Honda Shuttle has never been anything but a good vehicle: a people-mover, one of the pioneers in that now overcrowded field. It offered a car-like driving position, ride and handling with the advantage of decent space for luggage, even with its six seats in place, *writes Alan Copps*.

But because it originally offered only six seats rather than the seven of so many rivals, and because in this country it was distinctly pricey, it has never been popular. Now with revised models, Honda has answered its critics, the Shuttle comes in a seven-seat form and is priced to compete with market leaders like the Ford Galaxy and Renault Espace.

The improvements in the Shuttle reflect the growing importance of people-movers or MPVs in the market. In 1992 there were just four models on offer in this country, there are now 17 and sales have doubled in the past two years, reaching a total of 35,000 vehicles in 1996.

In the early days the people-mover was seen as a premium vehicle, but as more and more makers have entered the field the emphasis has been firmly on cars that cost less than £20,000. The Honda's original sales pitch was built round the tag of a "private jet for the road" emphasising quality, and luxurious comfort, and costing more than £23,500. The company says both the new versions remain faithful to the original concept, yet the price of the seven-seater LS has been brought down to £17,995 while the equipment list remains impressive.

The six-seat SE version features exactly the same drive train, a 2.2-litre engine linked to four-speed automatic transmission but offers cruise control, air conditioning, alloy wheels, and an electric tilt/slide sunroof all as standard to add to the already long list of features for the LS.

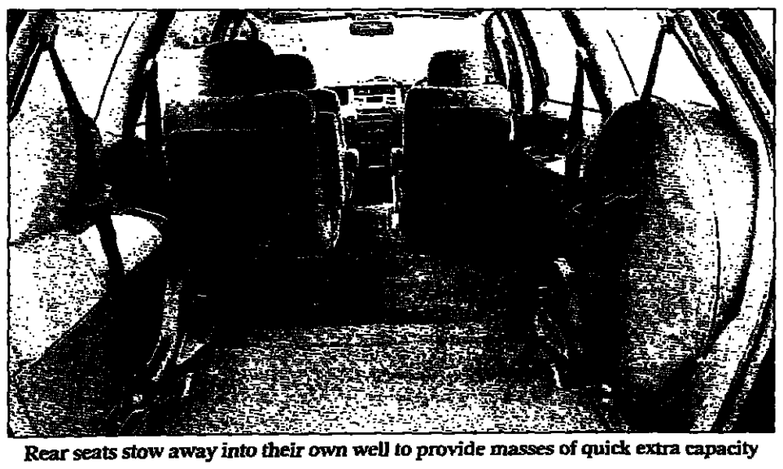
But perhaps the most important things about the Shuttle remain those that endeared it to me on first acquaintance in the old expensive form.

The all-round wishbone suspension gives a much more comfortable ride in the rear than most such vehicles offer. But more importantly, if you want to carry luggage as well as people there is a deep well behind and beneath the rear row of seats easily large enough to contain a couple of decently sized suitcases. And if you want to carry a trunk or wardrobe rather than two extra passengers, those seats simply fold away into the well, leaving a large, easily accessible flat floor.

This is a major advantage over many of the models on the market which require the complete removal of seats to increase the load area, posing the question of where you store them. And if by some chance you want to carry two wardrobes you can still remove the middle row of seats, turning the whole vehicle into a mini-pantechnicon.

There are however two flaws that are also carried over from the original version: the automatic transmission, while fine in town and on the motorway, can occasionally seem fuzzy, especially on twisting country roads, as if it can't make up its mind about the right gear for the conditions.

And why does a company like Honda, so careful about so many details, insist upon fitting such nail-breaking controls for its stereo system?



Rear seats stow away into their own well to provide masses of quick extra capacity

SHUTTLE

Engine: four-cylinder, 2.2-litre producing 150bhp through four-speed automatic box.
Performance: 0-60mph, 11.1secs. Max 114mph.
Economy: combined, 27.4mpg.
Equipment: Air conditioning, twin airbags, anti-lock brakes, electric windows (LS) plus cruise control, alloy wheels, electric sunroof (SE).
Price: £17,995 (LS), £19,995 (SE).

FORECOURT

■ BUYERS who dimiss a car's colour and value it only with regard to its performance and fuel economy could be making a costly error when deciding how much they pay, *writes Vaughan Freeman*.

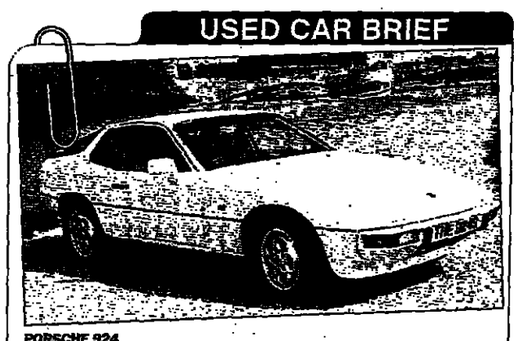
■ FAR from being a cosmetic element of a car's value that has little or no bearing on its worth, the paint job can make all the difference not just to how much your car will fetch when you sell it, but whether it will sell at all, reports *CAP Black Book*.

■ FOR all cars colour is important, and for many it is virtually the be-all and end-all in the marketplace. Drivers who buy the right car in the right colour are going some way to ensuring its "sellability". *CAP Black Book* reports that whether the car is a sportster or a rugged off-roader, colour is the key. The Daihatsu Sportrak sells best if it is fitted with alloy wheels and comes in metallic green, while the same car is not nearly as popular in white.

■ THE Fiat Brava, while a good-looking car, will also struggle to sell if it is in a "poor colour", which means sandy, tan shades, brown and flat colours such as green. While metallic colour sells the Sportrak, metallic will not in itself guarantee a sale — it all depends on the car. For the Honda Civic five-door, dark metallic colours are reported not to be popular, although metallic colours are preferred on the Hyundai Accent as well as the Nissan Terrano.

■ EVEN prestige cars, are vulnerable to the vagaries of colour. The Mercedes-Benz S Class 320 and 420, while "desirable" generally, will struggle to sell in flat, unattractive colours. Not just executive cars are colour-sensitive. Even the Skoda Felicia will sell more easily if it features metallic paint and alloy wheels, and the Rover 600 saloon will sell faster if it has colour-coded bumpers.

USED CAR BRIEF



PORSCHE 924
There is a cheaper alternative to paying £35,000 for a Porsche Boxster even if it is powered by a VW van engine. For a fraction of the price a used Porsche 924 offers excellent cornering, great handling and powerful brakes. Sold as a 125bhp two-litre, 170bhp two-litre Turbo and 150bhp 2.5-litre 924S with four and five-speed manual or three-speed automatic. The 924 sold from 1977 until the mid 1980s, a supposed 2+2 but in effect a two seater with room in the back for soft bags.

GOOD NEWS: A cared-for 924, as you would expect from a Porsche/VW/Audi genesis, lasts a long time so rust-free models abound. For those prepared to seek out the roads for legal faster motoring, the 2-litre will top 120mph and the more powerful 924S, launched in 1985, will go to 135mph.

BAD NEWS: The 924 suffers because it lacks pure Porsche pedigree, the 2-litre engine comes from a VW van, but owners can always point out that turbo versions earned their racing spurs at Le Mans (spawning a Le Mans special edition). Since the 924 shares engine, suspension and gearbox parts with VW/Audi models, maintenance costs are less fearsome than usual for a Porsche.

LOOK FOR: A factory sunroof and leather upholstery will help fetch a better price when you come to resell, and the five-speed gearbox that became standard on later cars is a major plus. Seek out cars with a history of dealer servicing. Lux models come with alloy wheels and tinted glass.

AVOID: Early, less powerful 2-litre cars often show signs of having been worked hard by owners trying to get scorching Porsche performance from an engine unit not really up it. Early cars may also suffer from paint problems such as rust and bubbling. Also avoid cars showing signs of gearbox and cooling system problems.

SAFETY: Traditionally solid, sure-footed Porsche handling characteristics means that drivers should be able to avoid getting into trouble in the first place, rather than trying to survive accidents.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1986 2.5-litre 924S costs a 55-year-old professional male or female living in Winchester with full no claims, £250 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male or female with one year no claims living in south London pays £2,247.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (Prices supplied by Glassmatix 01932 823823): Clutch assembly £595; full exhaust £430; front brake pads (axle set) £78; rear damper £66.40; alternator (exchange) £501; starter motor (exchange) £258; radiator £451.

PRICES: Expect to pay below £2,000 for the earliest models, and around £2,500 for a 1982 Y-reg 2-litre 924, £3,000 for a 1983 A-reg 924 automatic, £3,900 for a 1985 B-reg 924 Lux, £5,000 for a 1986 D-reg 2.5-litre 924S, and £3,750 for a 1982 Y-reg 924 Turbo.

OVERALL: A used 924 can offer buckets of bargain fun driving and the 2.5-litre car in particular is very quick. Relatively economical to run given the badge, though tatty models now getting on for 20 years of age should be avoided.



■ POWER TO be reckoned with: this new Lexus GS 300, to make its debut at the Frankfurt Motor Show next week, has a more powerful engine, yet costs less to run than its predecessor.

The three-litre six-cylinder engine delivers 218bhp at 5,800rpm, giving a top speed of 143mph and 0-62mph in 8.2 seconds. Yet the new Lexus uses 10 per cent less fuel overall, thanks partly to a new five-speed automatic gearbox which changes its shift pattern to suit driving style and road conditions.

The car, which goes on sale in Britain in January but can be seen at the London Motor Show from October 15, also has a stronger body shell with side impact protection, traction control and side airbags.

SPARE PARTS

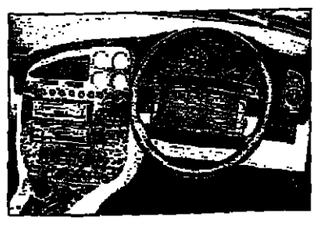
VAUXHALL

■ VAUXHALL broke its all-time sales record last month, when the company sold 70,266 cars — nearly 10,000 more than in August last year. Van sales, at 4,099, were the highest since 1990. The company has also announced it is to increase some 1998 model prices by less than one per cent, including the Astra and Vectra. Models in the Corsa and Tigra ranges will stay the same price.

■ A SALES boom has prompted Mitsubishi to release its 1998 four and five-door Carisma models from the beginning of September — nearly two months earlier than planned.

Demand for the R-reg Carisma in August sent sales up by 86 per cent on the same period last year.

The 1998 models, which include 1.6 and 1.8-litre petrol and 1.9-litre diesel versions, cost from £12,230 to £17,205, an average of 2.1 per cent more than their predecessors.



■ THERE IS room to manoeuvre behind the dashboard of the new 350bhp Aston Martin V8 Volante — with twice as much space for luggage as its forebear, and an extra 200mm of leg room for rear seat passengers.

The convertible, which goes on show at the London Motor Show next month, will sell for around £169,500.

An enthusiast's unique collection of a rare marque of British car goes up for sale this week, says **Alan Copps**

Allards under the hammer

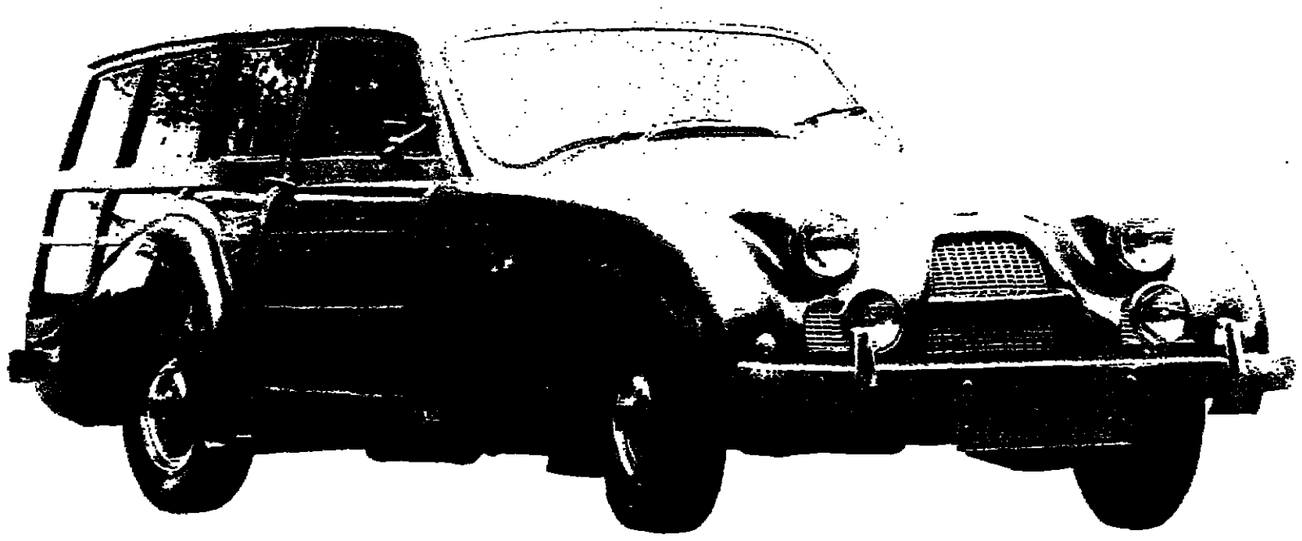
The idea of shoe-horning a V8 engine into a lightweight sports racing chassis is the basis of the modern muscle car, designed so that power can be enjoyed rather than tamed.

The AC Cobra, that brilliant hybrid put together by the American racer Carroll Shelby is the classic of this breed. But the idea had been aroung long before his first efforts. One of the pioneers was Sydney Allard, who said that he only became a car manufacturer because it allowed him to go racing. His prewar specials rapidly progressed from using a Ford Pilot V8 engine rescued from a wreck to power his first competition car, to even more powerful imported units. But it was in the immediate postwar years that his little company based in Clapham, South London, blossomed.

As the giants of the motor industry lumbered to change gear from munitions work to making cars for the masses, Allard seized his chance. Exploiting a vast stock of wartime Ford parts and his own innovative design for lightweight tubular chassis with coachbuilt aluminium bodies, he rapidly produced a brilliant series of cars, from out and out racers to family saloons and even a huge estate.

His competition success was outstanding. In the 1950 Le Mans 24-hours he placed third overall and won his class, driving a J2. Two years later, in a P-type saloon with navigator Tom Lush, Allard was outright winner of the Monte Carlo Rally. That model became the most popular of Allard's products, with more than 800 being built. Other Allards scored numerous successes in sportscar racing, hill climbing and rallying to give the marque a loyal and enthusiastic following which has lasted to this day.

But it was a brief success for a small enterprise. Inevitably the big boys of the mass-production car industry rolled into the market and squeezed out or bought up most of the small producers. Allard remained independent but produced his last cars in 1957.



Pristine condition: a huge Allard Safari estate from 1954, evidence of how the South London carmaker produced a wide range of fine designs

Next week the most comprehensive collection of his cars goes for auction by Christie's at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire. It was amassed by Brian Sharp, who drove an Allard as one of his first cars in the 1950s.

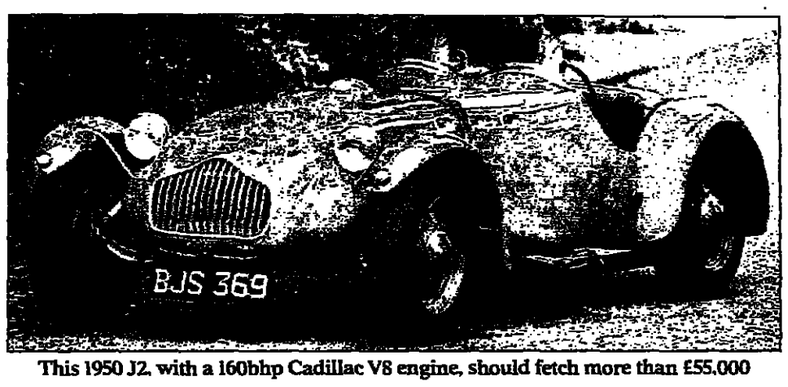
"In 1955 I bought a 1949 L-type tourer for £295. I sold it to buy an Allard saloon but I never forgot the fun I had in it. But then life got a bit serious and I went into business and had to be practical. I bought a Ford Zodiac.

"I built up the business and when I saw a near replica of my first car I was inspired to buy it." That was an L-type four-seater with the Ford Pilot V8 engine. Sharp has restored it to original condition, as he has with all the cars in his collection. It is estimated to fetch £18,000-22,000.

"When I look at them now sometimes I think the design is rather crude," he says. "Most of them weren't pretty cars but they grew on you. I liked to keep them in use and drove some of them on hill climbs."

The 11 cars in his collection range from a prewar four-seater special originally owned by Allard's father Arthur (about £40,000-£45,000) to a 1955 JR sports racer with a 260bhp Ford V8 once used in British hill climbs and sprints by Sidney Allard and his friend Rupert de Larrinaga.

The JR is probably the rarest of them and has special value because of its direct connection with Allard. After appearing on the firm's London Motor Show stand it was shipped off to the United States where it had a successful competition career. It is estimated at £50,000-£55,000.

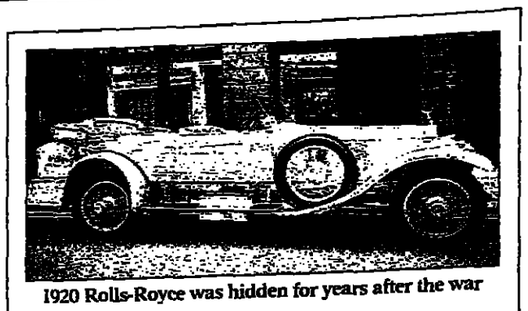


This 1950 J2, with a 160bhp Cadillac V8 engine, should fetch more than £55,000

An even higher price is expected for a 1950 J2 which has a 160bhp Cadillac V8 engine and ingenious independent rear suspension with inboard brakes which helped to control the wheelspin for which these large-engined cars were notorious.

Although the J2 was famed as a competition car this one was ordered by a fastidious American enthusiast who last drove it in 1968 when it had covered a total of 6,544 miles. It was then stored until his death ten years later. It joined Sharp's collection in 1983, and has still done only 9,346 miles.

For a company that made only 2,000 cars in its history, Brian Sharp's is an astonishingly representative collection. It is expected to raise more than £300,000. But his chief hope is that someone might buy it and keep it together.



1920 Rolls-Royce was hidden for years after the war

Barn Ghost returns for sale

A ROLLS-ROYCE Silver Ghost that spent World War Two in a French barn is returning to one of its glamorous old haunts at Longchamp race course in Paris next month. *John Shaw writes.*

The stately car is one of the highlights of a £2 million Brooks Europe sale on September 8, the first by a British auction house in France. It is a prelude to the opening of the entire domestic auction market, hitherto tightly restricted by the French, on January 1.

The sale has been organised in conjunction with Etude Tajan, the country's biggest auction house, and coincides with the *Louis Vuitton Concours D'Elegance*, the blue-chip classic car gathering, at the adjoining Parc de Bagatelle.

The Silver Ghost, estimated at £65,000-£85,000, has a high-speed Alpine Eagle chassis and a torpedo body by Kellner, the famous Parisian coachbuilder.

Simon Kidston, managing director of Brooks Europe, says "It is sold with all sorts of period correspondence, including the original bill which shows the chassis price was £1,575. The records for these cars were amazing. We've got full details of the doors, the springs and even the Dunlop tyres because when you bought one of these cars you could specify every last little nut and bolt."

The original owner was Walska McCormick, a wealthy American woman who had homes in Paris and a country chateau. But, sensing the approach of war, she and her husband left their country retreat for a safer home in Pasadena, California, in 1938.

But before moving they left instructions that the wheels and tyres of their treasure should be removed and burnt to render the car useless to the Germans.

THE CAR was stored in a barn, unknown even to the neighbours. The McCormicks never returned to France and gave instructions for the sale of their chateau and its contents in 1965. During the dispersal they contacted the Rolls-Royce agent in Paris who sold them the car in 1920.

Mr Kidston said: "The current owner, who was working there as sales manager at the time, opened the barn and saw this car that hadn't seen the light of day for almost 30 years.

"New wheels and tyres were fitted, the engine turned and it was driven back to Paris. It is quite extraordinary to find one of these cars that has had only two owners from new."

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Hove builds V8 missile from America

John Naish reports on one enthusiast's extreme interpretation of the Stateside motorcycling dream

There are surely no greater icons of the American road than the Harley-Davidson motorcycle and the Chevrolet Corvette car. So what could be a purer celebration of Stateside heavy metal than putting them together in one machine?

Ralph Bellamy has done just that, and his V8-engined monster of a cruising motorbike has this month throbbed on to the road for the first time.

But it's not to the wide, sunny boulevards of Southern California that this machine has taken. The beast has been born and bred on the sedate back streets of seaside Hove, where Bellamy has spent the past year painstakingly building his dream.

He says that it is the first of its type to hit the road in Britain, and he is now considering putting the bike into small-scale production.

The statistics behind this bike are phenomenal: the Corvette engine, fresh out of its crate from the American carmaker, is a 5.7-litre high-output model, which will produce 354bhp.

The bike is capable of hitting 50mph from standstill in around 1.5 seconds and is geared to reach a top speed of 120mph, though it could be set up to do "whatever you want", says Bellamy.

The present configuration is set up for practical road use, but Bellamy wanted to try it in race trim at the forthcoming Brighton Speed Trials, "but the rules say you can only run bikes of up to 2,000cc", he laments.

Such is the massive output of the American engine that the bike, christened the Fatz V8, only has one gear. The clutch is slipped until about 30mph, and then its just a matter of twist and go.

Final drive is through a huge belt, and the back tyre is currently a wide, flat item more usually seen on performance cars. "I'm looking to change it for a special motorcycle tyre, but the authorities say it's not actually illegal to use one off a car," he says.



And he should know, as he runs a tyre-fitting business in the Sussex town. But he has also built drag bikes for several years, and found the inspiration for creating the Fatz when visiting Daytona Bike week — the American sports and social equivalent of our Isle of Man TT.

America already has a similar version of the bike, called the Boss Hoss, which uses the same combination of V8 powerplant and Harley-Davidson inspired frames.

The American maker now has its own range of styles and network of dealers. But buying one, either ready-made or in kit form, was not enough for Bellamy. He wanted to create a brute of his own.

The frame he designed from scratch is inspired by Harley's Softtail, which hides the rear shock absorbers in the bodywork, making the bike look as if it has an old-fashioned rigid rear end. Where two shock absorbers are enough on the Harley, however, Bellamy has had to use three. "It's a tight squeeze in there," he reports.

Already he has ridden the Fatz up to London, naturally stopping off at the Hard Rock Café. "I've done 300 miles on it, and I have to say it's quite a handful," he says. "The bike's extremely quick in a straight line but its a hard push going round the corners. I've built it for cruising, though, so it's never going to be the kind of thing you can really lay into bends."

One of the biggest surprises with the Fatz is its extreme quietness. The silencers Bellamy has fitted are quite restrictive, and obviously cut the power output.

But then what's a few lost horsepower when you have more than 350 to play with? "Everyone comments on the lack of noise," he says. "I don't want to create too much havoc with it — not until people get used to the idea."

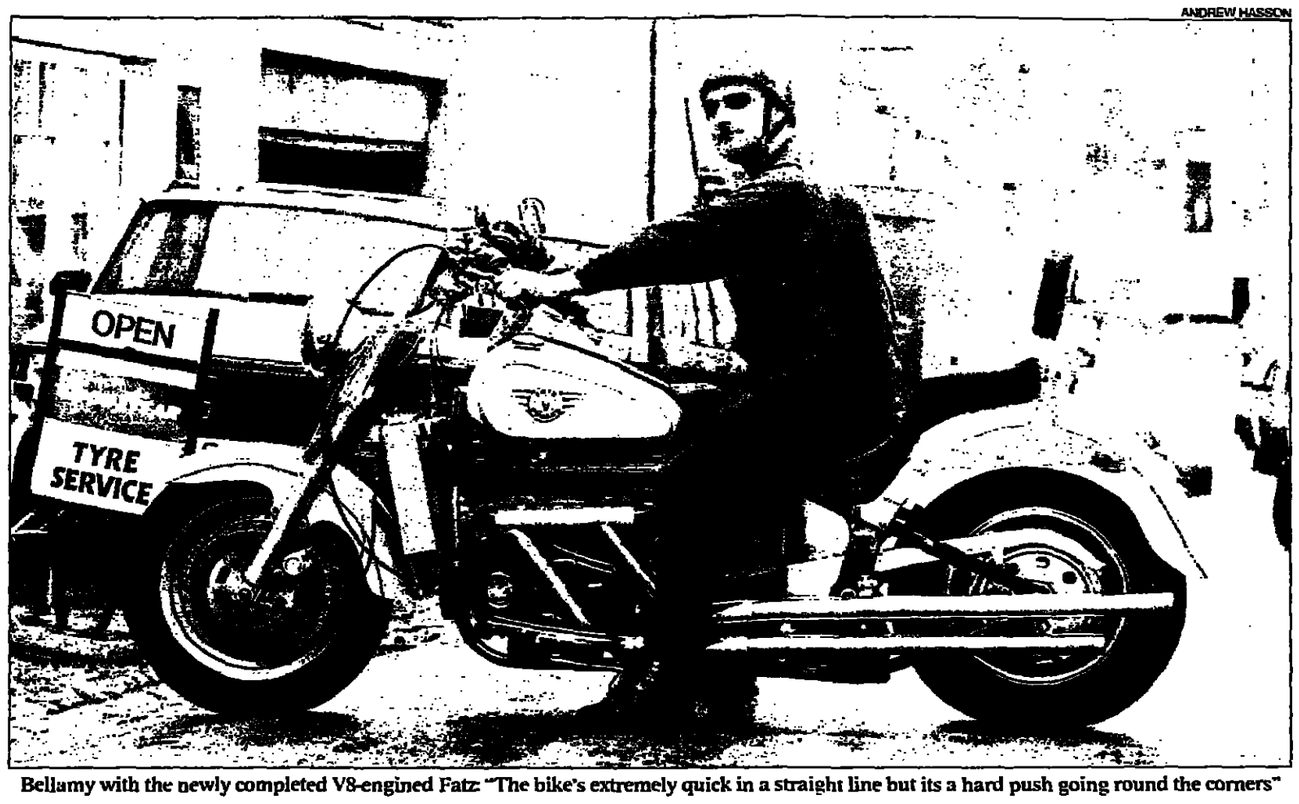
While it's unlikely that the good people of Hove will ever want to get used to such a concept, the motorcycle certainly drew a mass of gapers and admirers down the road in Brighton. Parked outside the Waterfront café, a bikers' bar on the seafront, the big yellow machine prompted a remarkably consistent response among passers-by.

First they would glance up and down at the Fatz, thinking, "Big Harley, that". After about four paces past the machine, a question mark would appear above their heads. "What is that engine?" they would mouth, before returning to spend a couple of minutes carefully examining the bike.

Bellamy estimates that the project has cost him £25,000 to complete — around the same as buying a Boss Hoss in the States. And he believes there is a market for similar machines in this country. Already, Boss Hoss dealerships have opened in Germany and Belgium, and there are indications that the makers are considering opening shops in Britain.

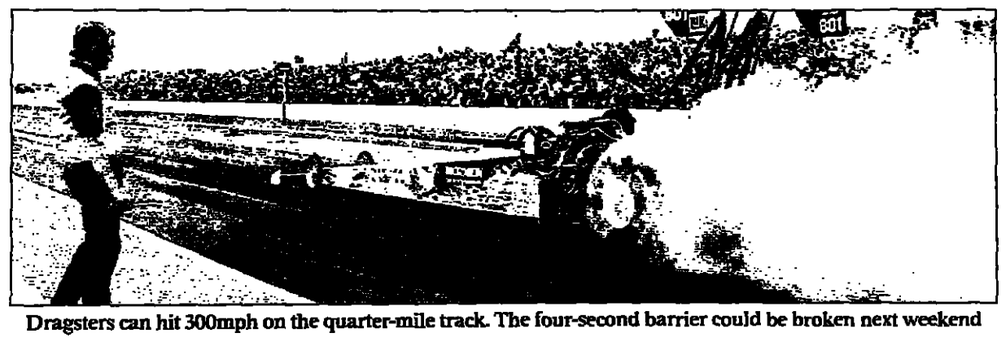
"If I get it into production, I'm looking at starting next year. But I'll have to get my skates on," he says. Indeed, but whatever the outcome, remember — Hove built Britain's American dream first.

ANDREW HASSON



Bellamy with the newly completed V8-engined Fatz: "The bike's extremely quick in a straight line but its a hard push going round the corners"

British drag king in title hope



Dragsters can hit 300mph on the quarter-mile track. The four-second barrier could be broken next weekend

DRAG RACING enthusiasts believe they may see the magic four-second barrier broken next weekend, when the FIA European finals are held at Santa Pod, *Eve-Ann Prentice writes.*

The dragsters can reach 300mph in their headlong sprint along the quarter-mile track. Swede Kent Persson last month became the first European to break the five-second record.

British hopes are riding with Barry Sheavills from Nottingham, who could become this country's first Top Fuel Drag Racing Champion if he can increase the pressure on championship leader Rico Anthes from Germany.

Advance tickets, available on 01234 782 828, cost £40 for the weekend, £32 for Saturday and Sunday (September 13-14), and £18 for Sunday.

● *Readers who take a copy of this week's* CAR 97 *can get two tickets for the price of one on Saturday.*

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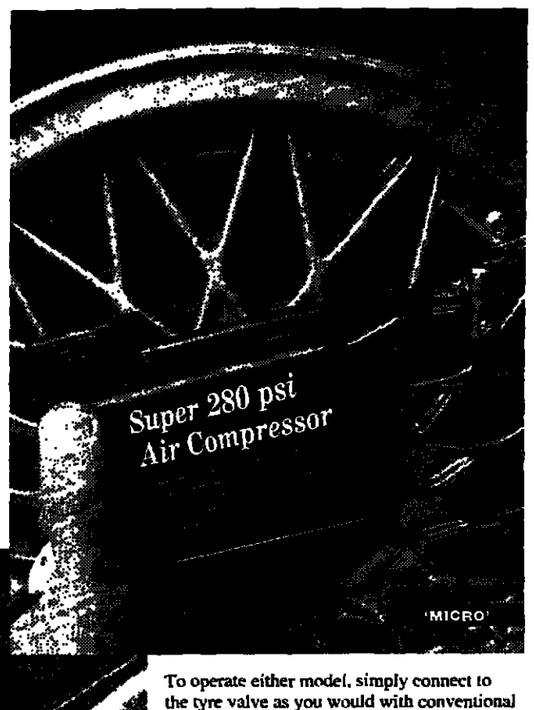
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Readers reign on our parade

Tony Dawe on the entrants for this year's Coventry Run

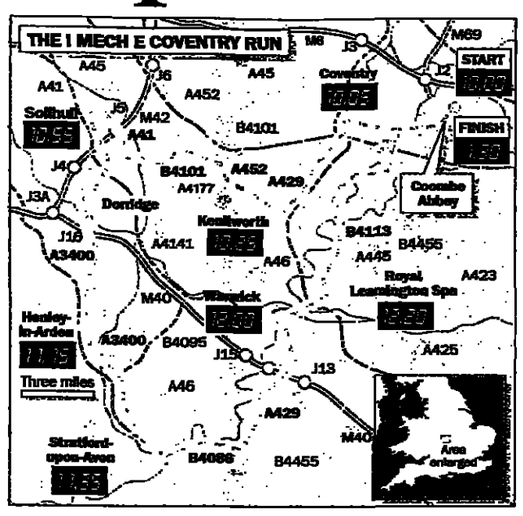
A rare luxury car, 74 years old, which was bought by its owner in part exchange for a vintage aeroplane, will lead *The Times* 20 out on the Coventry Run through Shakespeare country tomorrow.

The maroon and grey Straker-Squire 24/80 won its place in the over-subscribed event because it is the only one of its type left in Britain.

The six-seater machine, weighing 1.7 tons with a 3.9-litre engine, was intended to conquer the luxury market in the early 1920s but the makers faced continual financial troubles and finally expired in 1926 after only a few 24/80s were made. Two other models have emigrated to Australia and a fourth, a prototype used as a racing car, appears regularly at classic car events.

The Times 20 were selected from scores of entries from *CAR 97* readers and reflect the wide range of vintage, classic and sports cars taking part in this year's Coventry Run. A total of 480 cars and 18 motorcycles will set off from Coombe Abbey near Coventry at 10am and form a 5½-mile-long parade on the 65-mile route.

Bernard Harding, the *CAR 97* reader from Woking, Surrey, who entered the Straker-Squire, says he bought it by accident: "I had a De Havilland Moth and was worried about its condition and decided to sell it. The man who answered my advert offered the car and some cash for the aeroplane and I accepted because I already owned a couple of classic cars and fancied a third.



THE TIMES 20

1923	Straker-Squire 24/80	Bernard Harding, Woking, Surrey
1926	Austin 7	J.A. Harris, Chitterne, Wiltshire
1928	Buick Master 6	Idwal Bacon, Patching, West Sussex
1928	Sunbeam 20hp	Jonathan Butler, Newport, Shropshire
1928	Humber 9/20 fabric saloon	C.J. Hancock, Chesham, Bucks
1930	Hudson Essex Super 6	Peter Thompson, Summertown, Oxford
1933	Railton Terraplane Tourer	Nigel Plant, Tarporley, Cheshire
1934	3.5 litre Bentley Sports	David Newling Ward, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon
1934	LQ 2/20 Daimler	Fiona West, Barnack, Lincs
1936	Austin 7 Opal	J.A. Hallam, Ravenshead, Nottingham
1948	Studebaker Coupe	Cliff Wright, Droitwich, Worcs
1948	Triumph Roadster 1800	Christopher Chapman, Loxwood, West Sussex
1948	Bristol 2 litre 400	Brian Davies, Cheadle, Staffs
1950	MG Y saloon	Barbara Cole, Brentford, Middlesex
1956	Ford Popular	Martin Steibelt, Speldhurst, Kent
1961	Jaguar E type	Simon Riley, Clapham Park, London
1962	Lotus Elite series 2	D.R. Davis, Langport, Somerset
1962	Alvis TD 21	Raymond Keene, Stanmore, Middlesex
1966	Aston Martin DB6	Roderick Groundes-Peace, Whaddon, Bucks
1965	NSU Spider	Conn Williamson, Glenavy, Co Antrim

"It was virtually derelict but complete and has been restored very carefully. It has been running well this summer after I sorted out the sticking inlet valves. I shall be bringing a co-driver with me, however, for like all cars of the era, the steering is very heavy and gearchanging requires a lot of muscle."

The Straker-Squire will be joined in *The Times* collection by other classic monsters including the 1928 Buick Master 6, owned by Idwal Bacon of Patching, West Sussex, and the 1934 3.5-litre Bentley Sports belonging to David Newling Ward of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Some of the entries will take less effort to drive, including two inter-war Austin Sevens which earned their places as the famous model has its 75th anniversary this year.

Barbara Cole of Brentford, Middlesex, pleaded for a place for her recently acquired MG Y saloon as "the impetus to get the car out and about". She says: "It was a bit of a wreck when we first saw it but we couldn't walk away from the car. I have always liked old-fashioned saloons and the MG was something special.

"Winning a place on the Coventry Run ensured that it wasn't ignored. It has been expertly restored and we have just splashed out on a new radiator to make sure we get to Coventry. My husband, small son and I will be the ones with the biggest beams on our faces, even if we make it no further than the start."

Heading the parade from Coombe Abbey will be a Leon Bollee tri-car from 1896, followed by vintage Fords and Rolls-Royces, more modern Triumphs and Jaguars and the latest electric, gas and solar-powered cars.

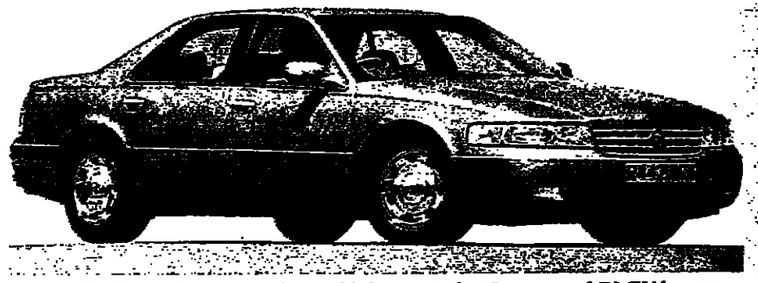
The alternative-fuel vehicles will form part of a collection of cars celebrating motoring milestones. It has been assembled by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, which is sponsoring this year's event to mark the Institution's 150th anniversary.

Owners of The Times *20 will receive petrol expenses up to £50 from BP for the Coventry Run, provided they buy the fuel from BP stations, plus a free Michelin road atlas of Britain*



ADRIAN SHERRAT

CAR 97 reader Bernard Harding will lead the *Times* section of the parade with the rare 1923 Straker-Squire he swapped for a vintage airplane



New Seville: no Yank tank, instead it is targeted at Jaguar and BMW buyers

CADILLAC FIRST LAUNCH INTO BRITAIN

THE CADILLAC, once a symbol of garish American luxury, is to go on sale in Britain for the first time next year. But the new Seville will be slimmer, neater and more elegant than its famous big-finned cars.

A left-hand-drive version will be unveiled at next week's Frankfurt Motor Show. Right-hand-drive versions of the car, a close relative of Vauxhall's Omega, will quickly follow for Japan and Britain, through a small network of specialist dealers.

The car will have a 4.6-litre V8 engine, setting it against Jaguar's new V8 saloons, the Toyota Lexus and BMW 5 and 7-series.

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